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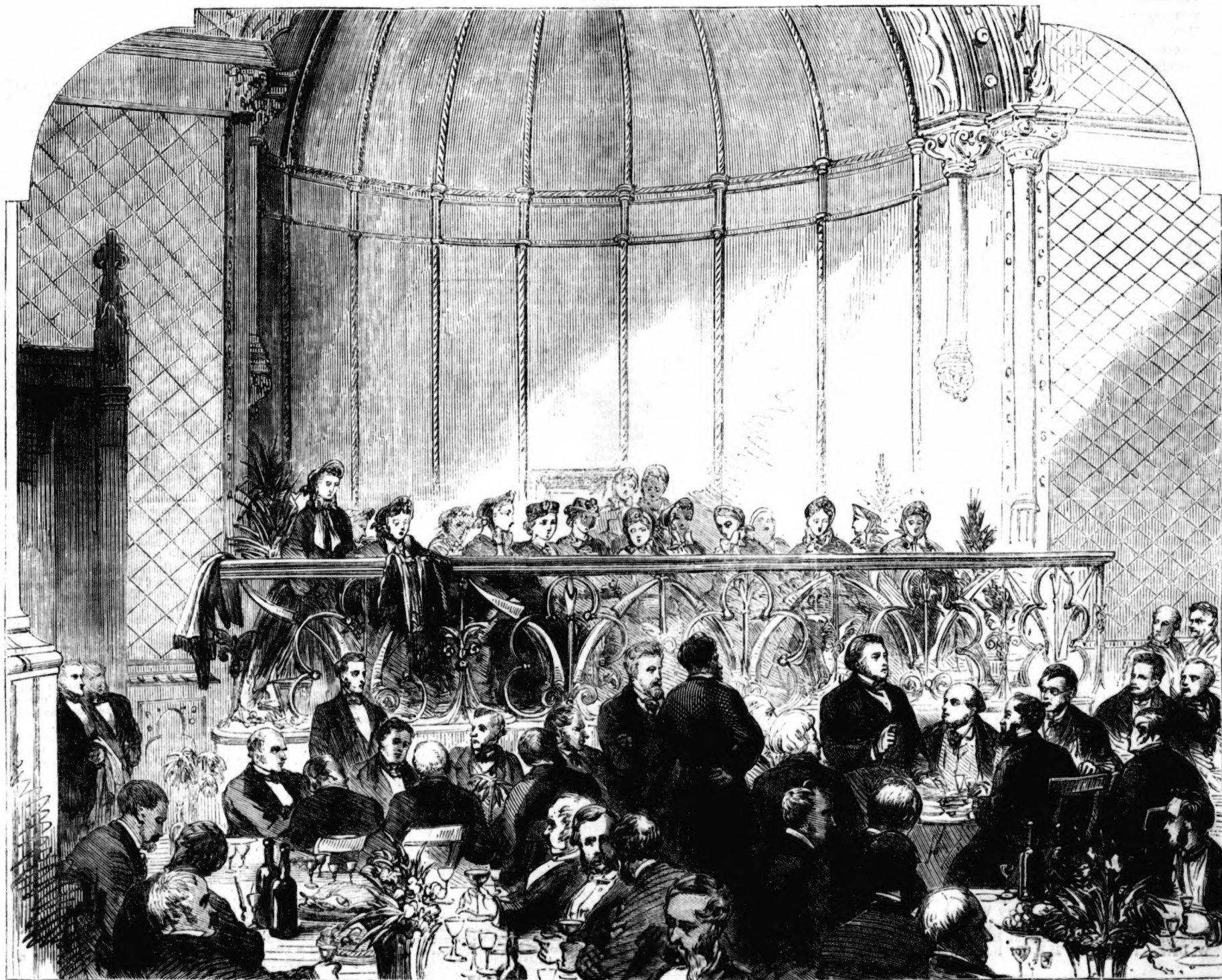
TOPICS OF THE DAY.

A CERTAIN number of what the *Times* calls "extra Parliamentary utterances" have been made during the past week. Mr. Baring delivered a good speech at Falmouth, on the subject of India, in the course of which he reminded his audience that in the House of Commons the commencement of an Indian debate was generally regarded as the signal for dinner. As Mr. Baring addressed his constituents in the evening, it is to be presumed that they had already dined; but, in any case, it was unlikely that they would rush out of the room in the unceremonious style of members of Parliament in danger of being bored. At a meeting, the orator is a much more important person than he is in the House of Commons, where all are orators together; and at a meeting, whatever topic he may introduce, he is at least sure to be listened to. Mr. Baring, moreover, had really something to say. Thus, he pointed out to his audience that whereas in 1858 there was a deficit in the Indian Budget of no less than £14,000,000, there was already in 1862 a surplus of two millions, the increased revenue being due, not to increased taxation but to the increased prosperity of the taxpayers. Since 1859

an average of £11,500,000 had been expended out of the income of the country on railways and other public works. On the other hand, out of 6,500,000 cwt. of raw cotton, imported into England last year from various countries, two thirds of the amount had been received from India. During the six years that had elapsed since the transfer of the Government of India from the hands of the East India Company to those of the Crown most important changes had been introduced in the administration, the greatest and most important of all being that by which the natives now occupied places in the law courts, legislative councils, and all the civil departments, side by side with Englishmen. Mr. Baring combated Mr. Cobden's assertion that "England has no interest in India, except for the commerce that is carried on;" and argued that the great principle on which England now sought to act towards the inhabitants of India was that contained in the recommendation of Mr. John Stuart Mill:—"Give good government to the people, and persuade them that we have done so."

Oddly enough, the same newspapers that gave us Mr. Baring's disclaimer of that mere love of commercial profit said

by Mr. Cobden to be the sole motive of our policy in India contained a speech by Mr. Bright, delivered at the opening of the Birmingham Exchange, which was nothing less than a glorification of commerce and an attempt to show that all great and free States had risen by commerce, and, finally, that commerce and freedom went hand in hand together and were inseparable. If Mr. Bright's speech could be regarded as a complimentary one, made only for the occasion on which it was pronounced, we should have nothing to say against it. But Mr. Bright began by declaring expressly that he had neither talent nor inclination for complimentary speeches; and although the most practised flatterers always endeavour to persuade the objects of their adulation that they have no turn for flattery, yet we are willing to believe that Mr. Bright really meant all he said, and that he did not panegyrisse commerce because he was addressing a commercial assembly—as the chairman at a public dinner, in proposing "The Army," lauds the military profession above all others; and, in drinking success to agriculture, explains that agriculture is the one thing on which the stability of an empire depends.



OPENING OF THE NEW EXCHANGE AT BIRMINGHAM: THE LUNCHEON.

It would be easy enough to cite cases in which a sacrifice of all other considerations to military glory has proved the downfall of States. It is quite true that the warrior Charles XII. ruined Sweden; but, on the other hand, the warrior Frederick the Great made Prussia. It is by war that the Russian Sovereigns have increased their power, reign by reign, for the last four centuries; by war that Louis XIV. raised the position of France in Europe; by war that the French Republic and Napoleon I. attained the same end—at least, for a considerable time; and it was only by means of the most energetic and costly warfare that England, in her contest with Napoleon I., broke up the Continental blockade—so destructive, and, had it been successfully established, so fatal to all her commercial operations. Moreover, it was the triumphant termination of the Waterloo campaign that gave to England a peace which, when the Crimean War broke out, had lasted, so far as Europe was concerned, not less than forty years. We do not argue from these facts that a nation can live and flourish by the sword alone; but such an argument might just as easily be maintained as the one put forward by Mr. Bright in favour of the supreme importance of commerce. It may be said that the conquering nations have not obtained happiness as a direct consequence of their victories; but their general position has, at least, been more fortunate—above all, in a material point of view—than that of the unhappy nations conquered by them. Poland and Hungary have now lost all commercial prosperity. The Dutch were not commercially prosperous until after they had freed themselves, by force of arms, from the domination of the Spaniards; and the modern Italians have never had a chance of developing their trade until now, when, thanks to their own soldiers and to the assistance of a military neighbour, they find themselves free to act for themselves.

It is undoubtedly true that political freedom and a free development of commerce have generally been found together. But commerce has been produced by freedom, not freedom by commerce. We value the cart, but cannot admit that it has ever led the horse; and however bad an opinion Mr. Bright may have of English institutions, he ought at least to remember that it was in England, and in consequence of the entire freedom allowed in this country to the advocates of all opinions, that the principles of free trade were applied earlier than in any other country.

Besides the "extra-Parliamentary," news has also reached us of a certain number of "super-Parliamentary" utterances. In this latter category the New-Year's Day speeches of the Pope and of the Emperor Napoleon (who are both "above Parliament," as Mr. Carlyle's ungrammatical German Monarch was *super grammaticam*) may fairly be reckoned. The Emperor Napoleon, who must say something oracular on the first day of every new year, could this time only congratulate the Diplomatic Body on the general harmony prevailing in Europe, and assure them of his desire to preserve so happy a state of things. As for the Pope, he merely expressed a hope that before departing this life he might have the satisfaction of seeing his enemies confounded and brought to grief. It would be less difficult to name the enemies of the Papacy than to point out its true friends; for the Pope has himself declared that he is eternally opposed to "liberty, progress, and modern civilisation." But, as the Emperor will not allow the appendix to the encyclical letter to be published in France, we presume that he may be numbered among those who do not regard the Pope just now with any particular admiration; and the Pope has certainly a claim to be reckoned with those Sovereigns to whom the Emperor thinks it necessary to address warnings on the score of prudence.

OPENING OF THE NEW EXCHANGE AT BIRMINGHAM.

THE Exchange recently constructed at Birmingham was opened on Monday with all the pomp and circumstance that the attendance of several members of Parliament, the chief inhabitants of the borough, and a numerous company of spectators could give. The building occupies a commanding position at the corner of Stephenson's-buildings and New-street, abutting on the space in front of the London and North-Western station and the Queen's Hotel. The structure is handsome and extensive, in a style of architecture that it would be difficult exactly to define; but it will be sufficiently near the truth to say that a prevailing feature of the order is Gothic, which appears to have been modified with ingenuity to suit the modern requirements of such a building.

In front is the statue of Thomas Attwood, the founder of the noted Political Union. The Exchange has a fine frontage of 72 ft. in New-street, and 186 ft. on Stephenson-place, with a central clock-tower, 145 ft. in height, surmounting an ornamental slated roof. The main entrance is in Stephenson-place, under the clock-tower, through a fine white stone arch, supported by polished granite columns, elaborately carved, and closed by a pair of beautifully-designed iron gates in mediæval style. A spacious and handsome vestibule, paved with encaustic tiles, leads by a handsome door to the Exchange, intended for the use of the merchants of the town. This fine hall is 70 ft. long, 40 ft. wide, and 23 ft. in height. Two groups of clustered iron columns, five in each row, support iron girders, which in turn uphold a boarded and panelled ceiling and the joists of the assembly-room floor, the apartment next above. This handsome apartment is of the same area as the Exchange-room, but more lofty, the ceiling being boarded and panelled, and following the slope of the external roof. Great taste has been displayed in the general design of this hall and in details of ornamentation.

The building, besides the foregoing, contains a room in which the sittings of the Chamber of Commerce will be held; minor assembly-rooms, refreshment-rooms, committee-rooms, lavatories, and a large amount of space already occupied as shops, offices, and business chambers. The architect is Mr. Edward Holmes, whose designs were selected by the Exchange Committee from those of a large number of competitors.

The opening ceremonial took place at twelve o'clock, when a numerous company, including most of the leading merchants, manufacturers, and others, were assembled in the lower room of the Exchange. The Mayor (Mr. Henry Wiggin) presided, and on the dais at the west end of the hall were Mr. William Scholefield, M.P.; Mr. John Bright, M.P.; the Right Hon. C. B. Adderley, M.P.; Mr. W. Davenport Bromley, M.P. for North Warwickshire; the Rev.

Canon Miller, D.D.; Mr. Sampson S. Lloyd, President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, and other gentlemen.

The Rev. Dr. Miller, at the request of the Mayor, offered up an appropriate dedicatory prayer, invoking the Divine blessing upon the undertakings about to be carried on within the walls of the new building; after which

Mr. Scholefield, M.P., rose and said, "In the absence of those who would have conferred far greater dignity on that ceremonial than he could possibly do, he had been invited to open the Birmingham Exchange buildings, and he had no hesitation whatever in accepting the invitation of those who were instrumental in raising the beautiful structure in which they were assembled, because whenever his fellow-townsmen thought he was worthy to be associated with them in any work connected, as that was most intimately, with the best interests of the town of Birmingham, he had no scruple whatever in associating himself with them. His duty on the present occasion was exceedingly simple, and would involve only two or three words from him—namely, to announce to them the opening of the Exchange. He should limit himself to that simple ceremonial, and the expression of a hope that the building in which they were then congregated might tend to increase the intercourse between the merchants and manufacturers of that important borough, and increase commercial relations, not only with themselves, but with other nations, because it was to commerce they must look for the best bond of union between different countries, as the best security for permanent peace. He was sure if that building were properly appreciated by the merchants and manufacturers of that great town, as well as by those who were engaged in the great industrial branches in the district around them, teeming as it did with a population employed in kindred pursuits, it would produce the best effects possible on the permanent interests of the locality."

The Mayor begged to add his congratulations to those of their hon. member, Mr. Scholefield, on the opening of the new building. Although it had been said by some persons that Birmingham had no need of an exchange, he felt convinced that, however the state of the town some twenty-five years ago might have justified that opinion, its condition as a mercantile town no longer did so. Their commercial transactions were not only much more numerous, but on a much more extended scale, and it was to be hoped that, now a proper building had been erected, gentlemen connected with the trade of the town would enrol themselves as members of the Exchange and set apart a portion of the day to meet together in that room. He thought it would be an immense advantage to the trading interests of the town if the Exchange were properly appreciated and supported.

Mr. Bright, M.P., said: "I believe it is quite understood that this occasion is not one for making speeches. I feel, however, that it would be peculiarly out of place just now to say much with regard to the objects of this Exchange. I cordially agree with what has been said by my hon. friend and colleague, Mr. Scholefield; and it will be impossible to add anything, I think, to the beautiful and touching language and sentiments which we have heard in an address to the Supreme from the lips of Dr. Miller. I hope there is no one in this assembly who is not willing to say, with me, he can agree with every word of that prayer, and that his heart can follow every sentiment uttered by Dr. Miller. I must, at present, confine myself to the business of the time, and my business is—and I do it with the greatest possible pleasure—to ask you to pass a vote of thanks to the Mayor for his kindness in presiding over the meeting this morning, and taking a part in this ceremonial, which is peculiarly appropriate to his position as chief magistrate of the borough. For myself I can only wonder that Birmingham has not had an exchange many years before, and I think the admirable suggestion of the Mayor, that the merchants and manufacturers here should assemble daily in this room at 'high change,' as in Manchester, Liverpool, London, and, no doubt, in all the great commercial cities in the world, is worthy of consideration. Indeed, I am sure if the merchants and manufacturers will assemble here at a stated hour, and make it a meeting-place for friendly discussion on other matters besides the mere buying and selling, it will prove a source of great advantage to the commercial and general interests of this town and district."

The Right Hon. C. B. Adderley seconded the resolution. He congratulated the meeting on the fact that on that occasion the interests of commerce, of manufactures, and of land were represented, and expressed a hope that this country would continue to show, both in its local and legislative action, an utter absence of narrow and isolated views and a thorough union of every representative class, so essential for the prosperity and progress of a great and free nation.

The proceedings then terminated with three cheers for the Mayor and a similar compliment to the borough members.

A luncheon afterwards took place in the Assembly-room, to which about 250 gentlemen sat down. The Mayor again presided, and the principal speakers were Mr. Adderley, M.P., Mr. Scholefield, M.P., Mr. Bright, M.P., and Mr. Davenport Bromley. Mr. Scholefield represents the scene in the Assembly-room while Mr. Bright was addressing the audience, which included a number of ladies, who were accommodated with seats in the gallery. A View of the building itself will appear in our next week's Number.

DEATH OF SIR ALEXANDER BANNERMAN.—Intelligence has been received of the decease of Sir A. Bannerman, Knight, who, in 1857, was appointed to the chief command of the colony of Newfoundland. The ancestors of the deceased, who was cousin of Sir Alexander Bannerman, Bart., were hereditary banner-bearers of the Kings of Scotland, in the tenth and eleventh centuries. Born in 1783, his earlier years were passed in mercantile pursuits, and for some years he was a shipowner, merchant, and banker at Aberdeen, of which city he ultimately was elected provost. After the passing of the Reform Bill he was elected member for Aberdeen, which he continued to represent without interruption till 1847. In 1837 he was elected Dean of Marischal College, and in 1851 he was nominated by Earl Grey, under Lord John Russell's administration, to the governorship of Prince Edward Island, when he received the honour of knighthood. He remained three years in this post, which was afterwards exchanged for the governorship of the Bahamas, and three years subsequently he was appointed to the chief command in the colony of Newfoundland.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held, on Thursday last, at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Mr. Lewis, the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, a reward of £25 was voted to the crew of the Yarmouth large life-boat of the institution for going off on the night of the 7th of December and saving the crew of twelve men from the Austrian brig *Zorniza*, of Lucerne, which struck, and afterwards became a total wreck, on the Scroby Sand, during a strong wind from the S.W. Rewards amounting to £54 18s. 6d. were also voted to the crews of some of the life-boats of the institution, and to those of fishing-boats and others for saving fifty-five lives from the following wrecks during the late storms:—schooner *Idas*, of Nantes, six men saved; smack *Pearl* and *Speedwell*, of Carnarvon, five; barque *Jenny Lemelin*, of Quebec, assisted to save vessel and nine men; smack *Morning Star*, of Carnarvon, saved vessel and crew of three men; brig *Union*, of Milford, seven; schooner *Sydney Trader*, of Cork, five; schooner *Euphenia*, of Aberdeen, four; brig *Mary Anne* and *Curlew*, of North and South Shields, sixteen; total, fifty-five lives saved. Rewards amounting to £45 18s. were likewise granted to the crews of the institution's life-boats at Calster, Teignmouth, Filly, Kirkcubright, and Pakefield, for either assembling or for putting off in reply to signals of distress from vessels which did not ultimately need their services. The silver medal of the institution and a copy of its vote on parchment were presented to Mr. Andrew Lusk, farmer, near Kirkcubright, and £5 to his five servants, in admiration of their noble conduct in attempting to rescue the schooner *Havelock's* crew, of Preston, who, however, unhappily perished. The committee expressed their deep regret at the lamented death of A. W. Sufway, Esq., V.P., of St. Mildred's Court, who had given the cost of four life-boats to the institution, and who was a munificent contributor to its fund. It was reported that two life-boats, built under the superintendence of the institution, had been sent to the life-boat societies in South Holland and Marseilles. Legacies of £400 from the late Hon. Mrs. Fitzroy; £100 from Mr. L. Marchant, of Guildford; and £19 19s. from Mr. C. King, of the National Debt Office, had recently been left to the institution. Dr. Watson had sent to the institution the cost of a life-boat, promised by his late cousin, Miss Watson, who had died intestate and somewhat suddenly. During the past month the institution had sent new life-boats to Piel, Lancashire, and to New Quay, Cardiganshire. The cost of the former boat had been collected by the commercial travellers, and that of the latter by the Ancient Order of Foresters. Life-boats were also ready to be forwarded to Poole, Dorset; Dirvan, Ayrshire; and Tramore, in the county of Waterford. Messrs. Forrest, of Limehouse, had also life-boats building for the institution the cost of which was between £2000 and £3000. The expense of a life-boat station was altogether £600, and £50 a year was required to maintain it in a state of efficiency. New life-boats were ordered to be stationed at Sunderland and at Maryport, Cumberland. Public meetings had recently been held at Manchester, Derby, and Henley to promote the objects of the institution, and some friends of it had suggested that the volunteers throughout the country might contribute one penny per man, which, according to the Inspector-General, would produce a sufficient sum, to buy a Volunteer life-boat. Reports were read from the inspector and assistant inspector of life-boats to the institution on their recent visits to the life-boats of the society on the coasts of North Wales, Cornwall, and Devon. Everywhere they found the boats in excellent order, and their crews perfectly satisfied with them. Payments amounting to £1256 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. Cordial votes of thanks were given by the committee to Mr. Chapman, the able acting-chairman of the institution, and to Sir Edw. Perrott, Bart., the zealous chairman of its preparatory committees. The committee also expressed their high appreciation of the ability and assiduity of the secretary and of the inspector of life-boats of the institution.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor Napoleon, according to custom on New Year's Day, received the Diplomatic Corps on Sunday, when the Papal Nuncio, in the name of that body, offered his Majesty their felicitations and good wishes for the coming year. The reply of the Emperor was couched in terms of love and peace with all the world. The Emperor, it is said, is about to cause the Imperial Guard to take their turn with the Line in doing duty in the provinces instead of enjoying the monopoly of garrisoning the capital. Several decrees favourable to commerce appear in the *Moniteur*.

An Imperial decree, dated the 24th of December, appoints Prince Napoleon a member and Vice-President of the Privy Council. The Prince's appointment to so important a position is supposed to indicate a *renouveau* on the part of the Emperor to the liberal views of his cousin.

The French Minister of Justice has issued a circular to the Archbishops and Bishops of France on the subject of the Pope's encyclical letter. He announces that the Council of State is examining the draught of a decree to authorise the publication, in France, of that part of the encyclical letter which grants a jubilee. But he declares that, as to the first part of the encyclical letter and the list of "errors" attached, the Bishops must understand that the reception and publication of those documents, which contain propositions contrary to the principles whereon the Constitution of the empire is based, cannot be authorised. Consequently, they cannot be printed in the instructions which the Bishops may address to their flocks in reference to the jubilee or any other subject. The Minister further requests that the prelates will caution their clergy against any sermons or discourses on the subject which might lead to undesirable interpretations.

ITALY.

Signor Sella has drawn up a report upon the results of the demand made by Government for the payment of the land tax in advance. Five sixths of the amount of the tax have already been paid, and the Minister states that the success of the measure is complete and certain.

The Pope has followed up his encyclical letter by an allocution addressed to the members of the Sacred College, in which he declared that robbery is now committed under the name of nationality, but that the ultimate triumph of the Church was certain. The Pope expressed his hope to see "the destruction of the enemies of the Holy See" and the triumph of truth and virtue.

AUSTRIA.

An Imperial decree issued on the 3rd inst. convokes the Servian National Congress and the Synods of the Eastern Greek Servian Bishops. The creation of an independent Metropolitan for Eastern Greek Roman Catholics in Transylvania and Hungary is also ordered.

DENMARK.

The project of the new Danish Constitution, arranged to meet the altered circumstances of the State, has just been published. In its principal portions it is the same as the fundamental law of June, 1849. It adopts the principle of universal suffrage for the elections to the Representative Chamber, and maintains that of full liberty for all citizens. When speaking of Denmark, we may allude to an article on the future of the Schleswig-Holstein Duchies which has just appeared in the *Cologne Gazette*, and which, in the broadest manner, insists upon the necessity of having them annexed to Prussia, declaring that no Prussian Minister, whatever his political party, would consent to allow a new German State to be founded on the banks of the Elbe. This must be comforting to the people of the duchies, who only sought independence and a ruler of their own choice.

SOUTH AMERICA.

A Congress of the South American Republics met on the 14th of November, and appointed the Representative of Peru first President of the Assembly. Frequent sittings were afterwards held, at which the greatest harmony prevailed. The question of the highest importance being the difficulty with Spain, the Congress closed the conference on the 26th by unanimously resolving:—1. That the Government of Peru must proceed immediately to give instructions for the recovery of the Chincha Islands, and to account to Congress within eight days. 2. That the President of Peru shall have no power to make a treaty or have any terms with the Cabinet of Madrid until the islands have been given up by Spain or have been taken by the forces of the Republic.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

WAR NEWS.

Our advices from New York are to the 24th ult. Sherman had not captured Savannah, but was besieging it. He had opened communications with General Foster and Admiral Dahlgren. Sherman, in a despatch dated the 13th, says:—

Before opening communication we had completely destroyed all the railroads leading into Savannah, and invested the city. The left is on the Savannah river, three miles above the city, and the right on the Ogeechee, at King's Bridge. The army is in splendid condition, and equal to anything. The weather has been fine, and supplies abundant. Our march was most agreeable, and we were not at all molested by guerrillas. We reached Savannah three days ago, but owing to Fort McAllister we could not communicate; but now we have Fort McAllister we can go ahead. We have captured two gun-boats on the Savannah river, and prevented their gun-boats from coming down. I estimate the population of Savannah at 25,500, and the garrison at 15,000. General Hardee commands. We have not lost a wagon on the trip, but have gathered a large supply of negroes, mules, horses, &c., and our teams are in better condition than we started. My first duty will be to clear the army of surplus negroes, mules, and horses. We have certainly destroyed over 200 miles of rails, and consumed stores and provisions that were essential to Lee's and Hood's armies. The quick work made with Fort McAllister, and the opening of communication with our fleet and consequent independence for supplies, dissipate all their boasted threats to head me off and starve the army. I regard Savannah as already gained.

The Confederate journals assert that Savannah has a triple line of defences. Sherman is to make Savannah, if captured, a base for operations in South and North Carolina. The Southern papers report all well at Savannah on the 19th ult. They also assert that Breckenridge had defeated the Federal General Burbridge near Salville, Western Virginia.

Hood's army reached Pulaski, seventy-five miles south of Nashville, on the 22nd ult., closely followed by the Federal cavalry. Forrest joined Hood at Columbia on the 20th ult. Thomas's army was south of Columbia. The Federal loss in the battle near Nashville is now placed at 3000, and an unofficial despatch says 5000 prisoners and fifty guns were taken from the Confederates. Thomas had been made a Major-General in the regular army.

Generally, affairs had remained comparatively quiet in the armies of the Potomac and the James for some days. Changes in the location of particular bodies of troops had taken place; but no movement indicative of an early assault on the Confederate position had been made.

The Federal fleet was reported to have appeared before the defences of Wilmington. Fort Fisher would be immediately bombarded by the heavy frigates, and an attempt made to blow up the fort by exploding a ship laden with powder close under its walls. The obstructions in Cape Fear River are, however, believed to be such that, should the forts fall, the fleet will not be able to reach the city, the case being similar to that of Charleston, Mobile, and Richmond. The *New York Tribune* reports from Washington that the hoisterous and protracted voyage to New Inlet experienced by the Wilmington expedition had unfitted most of the troops for immediate service and exhausted the fuel of the steamers, and predicts the return of the expedition to Fortress Monroe.

The vessels of a gun-boat expedition up the Roanoke had been blown up by Confederate torpedoes.

GENERAL NEWS.

President Lincoln had directed General Dix to countermand his recent order authorising Federal soldiers to enter Canada in pursuit of marauders. The commanding officer must report to General Dix previous to violating the frontier.

The President had made a call for 300,000 more men—a draught to take place if the requisite number was not obtained by volunteering.

The *Richmond Enquirer* of the 15th ult. reports that General Lee had written an official letter to Mr. Percher Miles, chairman of the Confederate Committee of the House of Representatives on Military Affairs, urging the immediate arming of the Southern negroes.

A resolution had been referred to the Senate committee on foreign relations authorising the expenditure of 10,000,000 dols. for fortifications and floating batteries on the lakes. There was an animated debate on the resolution, British and Canadian hostility being particularly dwelt upon. Mr. Sumner's views were regarded as conciliatory, he denying the right of the Government to pursue fugitives into Canada.

The House of Representatives had adopted a resolution by Mr. Winter declaring that Congress has the right to a decisive voice in prescribing the foreign policy of the country, and that while any international question is pending and undetermined it is an unfit subject for diplomatic explanation with any foreign Power by the executive department of the Government. This resolution was considered as aimed at and in condemnation of the policy of Mr. Seward.

The Democratic State Committee of Pennsylvania had issued an address declaring that Mr. Lincoln's re-election was secured by fraud. Lieutenant Bennett Young and two other of the Vermont raiders had been re-arrested at St. François, Canada, and taken to Quebec for examination.

Official notification is given that hereafter no foreign traveller shall enter the United States without a passport, immigrants excepted.

ADDRESS TO THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

THE following address, furnished with 1708 signatures, has been forwarded by the inhabitants of Königsberg to Herr von Bismarck for presentation to the King. It has also been transmitted direct to his Majesty from the province of Prussia, where copies are still circulating for further signature:—

Most Illustrious and Most Mighty King, Most Gracious King and Lord.—The elevating consciousness which the most recent occurrences have called forth in every Prussian breast, coupled with rejoicing at the grand exploits of the Prussian army and Prussian diplomacy, impel us respectfully to lay before your Majesty's throne the expression of our thankfulness for the brilliant results gained to the Prussian State through your Majesty's wise guidance, with the assistance of Almighty God, and to state further the wishes which animate our hearts as Prussians.

The exploits of the Royal army, and especially the admirable storm of the intrenchments at Düppel and the incomparable crossing to the island of Alsen—have woven a new garland of fame for the history of Prussia and given a fresh impulse to our feeling of pride in the Prussian name. The labour of your Majesty, to which future generations will pay the tribute of inexhaustible thanks—the reorganisation of the army—has proved a brilliant success. Prussia, mindful of her traditions, has again won for herself an honourable position in the council of the great Powers. The connection of Prussia with Austria, her natural ally, has acquired new consecration and the guarantee of firm endurance by the battle-fields of Schleswig-Holstein, where Austrian troops have again fought side by side with the Prussian army, for the first time since half a century, and by their common diplomatic action.

Nor have the sons of Prussia, true to their oaths, so joyfully shed their blood in vain. The glorious war has been followed by an honourable peace, which more than fulfils the hopes and wishes so long cherished by the German nation; nay, even far surpasses the boldest expectations entertained at the commencement of the war. Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenburg are now fully and for ever freed from the yoke of the Danish rule.

Henceforth the duchies will participate in all the blessings which German life, trade, and commerce bring with them. But a series of the most advantageous prospects, hardly yet appreciable, is also to be expected in future for Germany herself. The acquisition of this coast land, with its excellent harbours, and population accustomed to a seafaring life, secure a new and brilliant rise for the maritime position of Germany.

But, most gracious King and Lord, this new acquisition can only become a blessing to Germany, the increase in territory will only become an increase in power, when the duchies shall closely ally themselves with the North German great Power of Prussia, and unite their fortunes with those of our State. It is the historical mission of Prussia to be a strong guardian of Germany in the North, and it is only by permanently establishing her power by sea that she is in a position to fulfil this lofty task. Connection of the duchies with Prussia in military, naval, and diplomatic affairs is the very least that our State can and must demand as the fruit of the war, if she will not prove untrue to her historical traditions and repudiate the bases of her position as a great Power established by the famous Elector and Frederick the Great. But we almost apprehend that even such a result would hardly suffice truly to satisfy the interests of collective Germany.

Most illustrious King and Lord.—Your Majesty will very graciously permit us—urged by love to the ruling house, which we revere as subjects, filled with sincere devotion to the Prussian fatherland, and in firm reliance upon your Majesty's paternal consideration—respectfully to lay the wishes of our hearts regarding the future of Schleswig-Holstein at the foot of the Throne, without thought of arrogating to ourselves thereby any influence upon the policy of the Royal Government. We are unable to see any other issue in the Schleswig-Holstein question, to recognise any other solution satisfying in equal measure the interests of Germany, of Prussia, and of the duchies, than that the legitimate representatives of the population of Lauenburg have recently proposed for that country. All the three duchies in the hands of the King of Prussia, united with the Prussian monarchy under the sceptre of the illustrious Hohenzollern; the excellent harbours and the hardy population familiar with the sea utilised for all time in the Prussian navy to the increase of the power and reputation of Prussia and the effective protection of entire Germany; what a glorious, elevating prospect for every Prussian heart is not here opened for the entire future of the fatherland!

An occurrence in ancient Prussian history providentially points out the way to this future. The marriage of the Danish Princess Elizabeth with your Majesty's illustrious ancestor Joachim I., of Brandenburg, has given the issue of that union eventual hereditary rights to the Schleswig-Holstein duchies which have never been abandoned, but, on the contrary, have frequently been recognised in later times, and have been especially confirmed by the German Emperors—rights which now awake out of their long slumber to new historical life. The Prussian nation hopes that these chartered rights will now receive conscientious examination, and that the Almighty, whose hand so visibly directs the history of Prussia, may grant that the illustrious Royal House of Hohenzollern may acquire legitimate possession of the duchies, to the fame and glory of Prussia and the honour and power of collective Germany.

May God preserve and bless your Majesty! God bless our dear Prussian fatherland!

Königsberg, Dec., 1864.

ARREST OF THE CAPTAIN OF THE CONFEDERATE CRUISER SHENANDOAH BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.—Captain P. S. Corbett, who commanded the Confederate war-cruiser Shenandoah when, under the name of the Sea King, she sailed from the Thames in October last, was on Tuesday arrested in Liverpool, under a warrant issued by Sir Thomas Henry, the Bow-street magistrate, upon the application of the Government. The warrant charges that Captain Corbett, being a British subject, enlisted or attempted to enlist a man named Hartless, also a British subject, in the service of a foreign State, contrary to the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act.

LADIES AND DRESSMAKERS.—Mrs. Cotton (writes Mr. H. W. Lord, reporting the evidence which, as Assistant-Commissioner, he has been collecting for the Children's Employment Commission) when first hand at a Court dressmaker's, was several times asked by ladies late on Saturday night to let them have a dress home the first thing on Monday morning, and has taken orders at bedtime, 4 p.m., for a ball-dress to be sent home that same night—any time before twelve would do.—'I remember,' says another first hand, 'a dress ordered at twelve, fitted on at 6 p.m., finished the same night, and sent home the first thing next day. The lady who ordered it said, "I suppose you work till eleven, and begin at six in the morning." She did not care how long we worked.—"Women are the slave-drivers," said, of course, a male employer to me. "A lady ordered a dress last season, and was told that they must sit up all night to make it. All she said was, "I hope it will fit." The girls were so vexed.—In another instance a jacket was ordered in the afternoon, to be worn at a meeting of "some Early Closing Association," at 2 p.m. the next day, so elaborate in its trimming as to involve the exclusive attention of several hands till past midnight. This reads almost like an invention, but it was mentioned to me with some bitterness by the person who had the order. Many of such cases, no doubt, are attributable to want of thought rather than want of feeling; many to pure ignorance; but the titled lady who sent three times before morning service on Sunday for a dinner-dress must have had a limited wardrobe and not much regard for the observance of the day of rest.'

IRELAND.

THE LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN.—The new Lord Mayor was installed on Monday with the usual forms and more than the ordinary pageantry and éclat. The members and officials of the municipal body assembled at the Mansion House at eleven o'clock. Though the streets were not in the best condition for the purposes of pedestrianism, the day proved most propitious for the ceremony. At twelve o'clock precisely the procession moved from the Mansion House, preceded by the City Marshal and two of the mounted constabulary. The band of the 5th Dragoons followed, playing a national air; after which came the out-going Lord Mayor's carriage and the state chariot, in which he was seated with his chaplain. Then followed the band of the 11th Hussars, after which came the state carriage of Mr. John Barrington, the new Lord Mayor, and a long line of coaches, in which were seated the members of the Corporation. The procession moved to the City Hall, where, with the usual ceremony, the new Lord Mayor entered upon his official duties. A warm and acrimonious discussion took place respecting the conduct of the out-going Lord Mayor. A déjeuner was afterwards given at the Mansion House.

CLOSE OF THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION.—The Exhibition of Irish Products and Manufactures, in connection with the Royal Dublin Society, was brought to a close on Saturday evening last, a grand concert being given by way of final display. This exhibition was inaugurated on the 25th of May last, and has consequently been open for rather more than seven months. The articles exhibited were, it is said, "so various and excellent as to give general satisfaction, besides creating the cheering suggestion that, with energy and enterprise to develop the national capabilities of the country and the industry and skill of the people, Ireland may yet attain to eminence for the amount and value of her manufactures." As regards the financial results of the exhibition, the receipts "will, it is believed, not only hold balance the guarantors to the fund for establishing it, but leave a small balance in hand." On Monday, through the liberality of the new Lord Mayor, Mr. John Barrington, the exhibition was thrown open to the public free, when advantage was very generally taken of that gentleman's generosity. The conduct of those who thronged the building was in every respect creditable.

MURDER IN THE COUNTY OF MEATH.—Mr. Thomas Reynolds, of Lingwood, in the county of Meath, who filled the situations of parish clerk, clerk of Petty Sessions, and master of a free endowed school, was shot by an assassin a few evenings ago, and died of the wounds next morning. Mr. Reynolds was sitting in the school-room attached to his dwelling playing backgammon with a young lady. So unconscious was he of danger that the slutters of the window were not closed, and the assassin, resting his gun on the sill, was enabled to take deliberate aim at his victim. The house was situated close to the road opposite the church of Rathore, in the county of Meath. The murderer took the precaution of putting straw on the ground near the window, lest he should be traced by the marks of his boots. The deceased is said to have been held in much esteem by the gentry of the neighbourhood, and he was remarkably quiet and unobtrusive in his manners. The only cause assigned for the outrage is the supposition, said to be quite false, that he had something to do with intended evictions in that neighbourhood. Three farmers, who, it is said, had received notices to quit from a new purchaser of a property in the neighbourhood, have been arrested on suspicion. Their names are John and Thomas Nugent and James Flynn.

SCOTLAND.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT AT DUNDEE.—A terrible accident occurred on Monday night at Dundee. A musical entertainment was advertised to be given in a hall which is situated underneath a Dissenting chapel. The entrance to the hall is by a descent of nine or ten steps from the street. A great crowd had assembled, and there was considerable impatience to get admission. When the doors were opened the crowd above pressed on those on the steps below and threw them down, and before the pressure could be stopped or the fallen extricated from under the feet of those who trampled on them, nineteen persons were suffocated. Several others were also seriously injured.

THE PROVINCES.

THE FROST IN CORNWALL.—The frost of the past week has been more severe in Cornwall than has been known for many years. The thermometer for several nights stood as low as 22 deg., and many of the pools in the neighbourhood of Penzance and Mount's Bay were frozen over, an occurrence very rare indeed in that genial neighbourhood. The water in the bay remained at 45 deg. for several days with scarcely any variation. The severity of the weather, however, has not prevented the general preparation for the early potato crop. Planting in sheltered nooks and in hotbeds is being vigorously carried on, and the same remark applies to the sowing of peas.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT PRESTON.—A fire broke out in the Hanover-street Mills at Preston on Saturday morning last, just as the workpeople were about to commence work, which has had the effect of throwing about 200 people out of employment. Although the hands were all on the premises, and the fire seems to have been discovered instantly, such was the combustible nature of the building that all efforts to extinguish it were unavailing, and the whole mills, with the valuable machinery, were destroyed. The destruction is heavily felt in the town, where work is so scarce; the proprietors of these mills were working them full time.

ANTICIPATED STRIKE IN THE MIDLAND COUNTIES.—There is but too great probability of a strike taking place among the workmen connected with the building trades in the midland counties. The masters have agreed among themselves to give every man who leaves their employment what they call a "discharge note," and they pledge each other that no one will take a working man into his employment unless he first produce this "discharge note" from his former master. The men regard this as a direct mode of reducing them to thralldom; they designate the note by the opprobrious name of ticket of leave, and a meeting of operatives to resist it was held on Friday evening at Nottingham, when resolutions were unanimously passed to resist the system and to appeal to their comrades throughout the country for aid.

CLEVER SWINDLE AT SHREWSBURY.—A SHAM POLICEMAN.—Shrewsbury has been the scene of a swindle so original in conception, and so bold in the carrying out, as to claim a special page in the annals of crime. On Tuesday night week a quiet-looking Welshman called at the police-office and asked for the assistance of one of the men in order to effect the capture of a thief whom he was in search of, and who had just taken up his quarters in the town. The applicant introduced himself as "John Morgan, of the Carmarthen borough police force," and produced a warrant, duly signed, for the apprehension of a man charged with stealing a gold watch, ring, chain, and other articles, from an hotel in Carmarthen. An officer was accordingly placed at his command, and the two men went to the Raven Hotel, and took into custody a gentleman who was staying there, and whom Morgan pointed out as the party "wanted." The prisoner was searched, and a gold watch, chain, and ring, which he wore, were at once recognised by the Carmarthen policeman as the stolen property, and, as such, he took charge of them, in addition to about £9 in gold, which was found in the prisoner's purse. On the following morning Morgan and his charge appeared in the local police-court, and on his agent producing the warrant, and swearing that the property found in the possession of the prisoner was that which had been stolen, the magistrates granted a remand until the next day. The prisoner gave his name as Charles Ashworth, and protested that he knew nothing about the charge. He requested permission to communicate with his friends, but on receiving from Morgan a hint that there was "another concerned in it," and that a telegram might spoil his chance of effecting a second capture, the magistrate refused the request, and Mr. Ashworth was removed in custody. On Thursday morning the prisoner duly appeared in court, but the prosecutor was gone, and so were the watch, chain, ring, and money; and several facts began to transpire which raised grave doubts as to whether they would ever be seen again. A gentleman well known in Shrewsbury came forward and declared that Mr. Ashworth lived at Egerton Hall, near Bolton, and that his father was chairman of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Of course Mr. Ashworth was immediately discharged, with many apologies for the inconvenience he had been put to; and the police authorities wrote to their brethren at Carmarthen demanding explanations of the extraordinary conduct of their representative, when it transpired that the Shrewsbury police and bench of magistrates had been tools in the hands of a sharper. Measures were promptly taken to discover the whereabouts of "John Morgan, of the Carmarthen borough police," but nothing has been heard of him. He got two clear days' start of his pursuers; and it is probable that so clever a member of his profession will know how to cover his retreat.

GOLDEN EGGS.—M. Hermann, a conjurer, lately performed the following impromptu trick in the streets of Constantinople. Returning in company with a friend from the bazaars, he met a Jew egg-hawker near the Stamboul end of the bridge, and, stopping him, asked the price of his eggs. "Thirty paras a piece," said the Jew, "for they were all fresh laid this morning." "Very good," said Hermann, "I will take a dozen at the price." The nine plasters were accordingly paid, and the conjurer then proceeded to crack one of the eggs. The result did not bear out the Jew's avowal as to their freshness; but Hermann, nothing daunted by the smell, slowly chipped off the top of the shell and fished out a sovereign from the centre of the odorous yolk. To the amazement of the Jew he did the same with a second and third—which both proved as rotten as the first—and was taking up a fourth, when Moses flung back the nine plasters, shouldered his creel, and scuttled rapidly off, declaring that he would not sell at the price. Hermann and his companion slowly followed, and, after a while, came up with the Hebrew in a quiet corner of the neighbouring mosque-yard, where they found him hard at work breaking his eggs. Another offer was made for the whole, but, though more than a dozen had already been sacrificed without the expected sovereigns turning up, the Yewdi refused business, and was led deliberately smashing the whole contents of his basket in search of the golden deposit.

THE ENTRY OF THE RETURNED PRUSSIAN TROOPS INTO BERLIN.

WE have already given some particulars of the entry of the troops lately engaged in the Sleswig-Holstein War into Berlin, and of the Royal speech which greeted the return of these warriors, a speech which might have been appropriate if it had been addressed to a victorious army marching home in triumph after deeds of valour achieved in spite of almost overwhelming difficulties, but which reads with strange grotesqueness when we remember that it was applied to the conquerors of that small Danish force which it so greatly overmatched.

The private houses exhibited flags, and many were adorned, in addition, with garlands and wreaths. The streets were crowded with people, all streaming towards the broad thoroughfare Unter den Linden. The municipal authorities, in their robes of office, occupied a gallery erected between the Palace and the Opera House. Deputations of the trades' unions, with flags, banners, and bands, had taken up their position at the monument of Frederick the Great, on the northern side of the Linden.

Shortly after eleven o'clock military music heralded the approach of the troops in garrison, who took up their position upon the Paris-square and the south side of the Linden promenade. The King had ordered that the four regiments of the Young Guards, who now returned from their first campaign, should be received by the elder infantry and Grenadier Guards. Behind these four regiments the discharged men of the troops about to enter, who had participated in the campaign, were drawn up under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel von Blücher, while the remaining troops of the garrison and deputations from the garrisons at Potsdam and elsewhere were posted upon the south of the Linden, between the Wilhelmstrasse and the Palace.

It must be remembered that the army, instead of returning directly from the seat of war, had been in quarters long enough to have lost all evidences of their having been in action; so that even the enthusiasm which might have greeted their appearance under such circumstances was wanting; and it was evident that the people only regarded the event as a military spectacle, although there can be no doubt that everything was done to render the event as imposing as possible. The regiments about to march in had assembled upon the parade-ground before the Brandenburg Gate.

Field Marshal Count von Wrangel rode upon the right wing, while his Royal Highness Prince Frederick Charles occupied the centre, each leader being followed by his respective Staff. The parade was under the immediate command of Lieutenant-General von Plonski, who also rode in front of the troops, accompanied by Lieutenant-General von der Mülbe. Major-General von Schlegel commanded the combined infantry brigade of the Line, Brandenburg Jägers, and the fortress and pontoon companies of the Guards; Duke Wilhelm, of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, led the combined cavalry brigade and the two batteries. The band of the Field Artillery marched upon the right of the batteries.

The generals and officers who had been promoted since the campaign, and were summoned to Berlin to take part in the entry, took up their position on the right of the troops they had led or rode with the Staffs to which they had been attached. Officers present in Berlin who had been transferred to other regiments rode with their old corps, as was the case with those officers of the Landwehr who had served during the campaign. The troops were accoutred in field-marching order, with cloaks, above which the officers wore their sashes. All officers who had made the campaign wore the white bandage upon the right arm.

The Dannebrog captured in the field were carried by the companies by which they had been taken. All the men were decked with wreaths and flowers. The ladies, who have always shown such great kindness in caring for the wounded who passed through the capital, had provided each soldier with a wreath and a patriotic poem. The flowers and wreaths were carried by the men upon their rifles.

Meantime, the generals and superior officers not serving with the troops had assembled on horseback, at half-past eleven, before the palace, to accompany his Majesty to the scene of the inspection, while the officers on foot took up their position at the statue of Prince Blücher. Shortly after noon his Majesty appeared, surrounded by the Royal Princes, Herr von Bismarck, and the Minister of War, and accompanied by a very brilliant and numerous suite. The Queen and the Queen Dowager, with the Crown Princess, the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and the Princesses, followed in carriages, and were at once received with loud cheers by the people and the troops. The bands struck up the National Hymn as the Royal party proceeded slowly along the centre of the Linden promenade to the Brandenburg Gate.

At this point Prince Augustus of Wirtemberg awaited the arrival of the King at the wing of the four regiments of the Old Guard. On his Majesty coming in sight the troops presented arms, and the King, followed by Prince Augustus of Wirtemberg and the generals and commanders of regiments, proceeded through the Brandenburg Gate to the parade ground, where the troops, under the command of Prince Frederick Charles, presented arms along the whole front. Prince Frederick Charles then rode forward to meet the King, and when his Majesty had reached the centre, Lieutenant-General von Plonski presented the report. As the King rode down the ranks he was greeted by a joyful "Good morning!" from the various regiments.

The inspection being ended, the King halted in the middle of the formation, and ordered that the colour-bearers, as well as the officers and soldiers, who had been decorated and had distinguished themselves during the late war, should step forward to the front, where they formed a hollow square, with the colours in front. His Majesty then rode into the square, accompanied by the Princes and general officers, and at once addressed the men. He afterwards gave the word to fall in, and himself rode in front of their march into the city followed by Prince Frederick Charles, the Generals, and their suites. In the rear came the different regiments who had taken part in the late campaign.

Amid the cheers of the people the King entered the capital. As his Majesty passed through the Brandenburg Gate the troops stationed in the Paris-square saluted, and the bands struck up the National Hymn. The King proceeded with his Staff to the middle of the Linden promenade, where it was proposed to pass the returning troops in review.

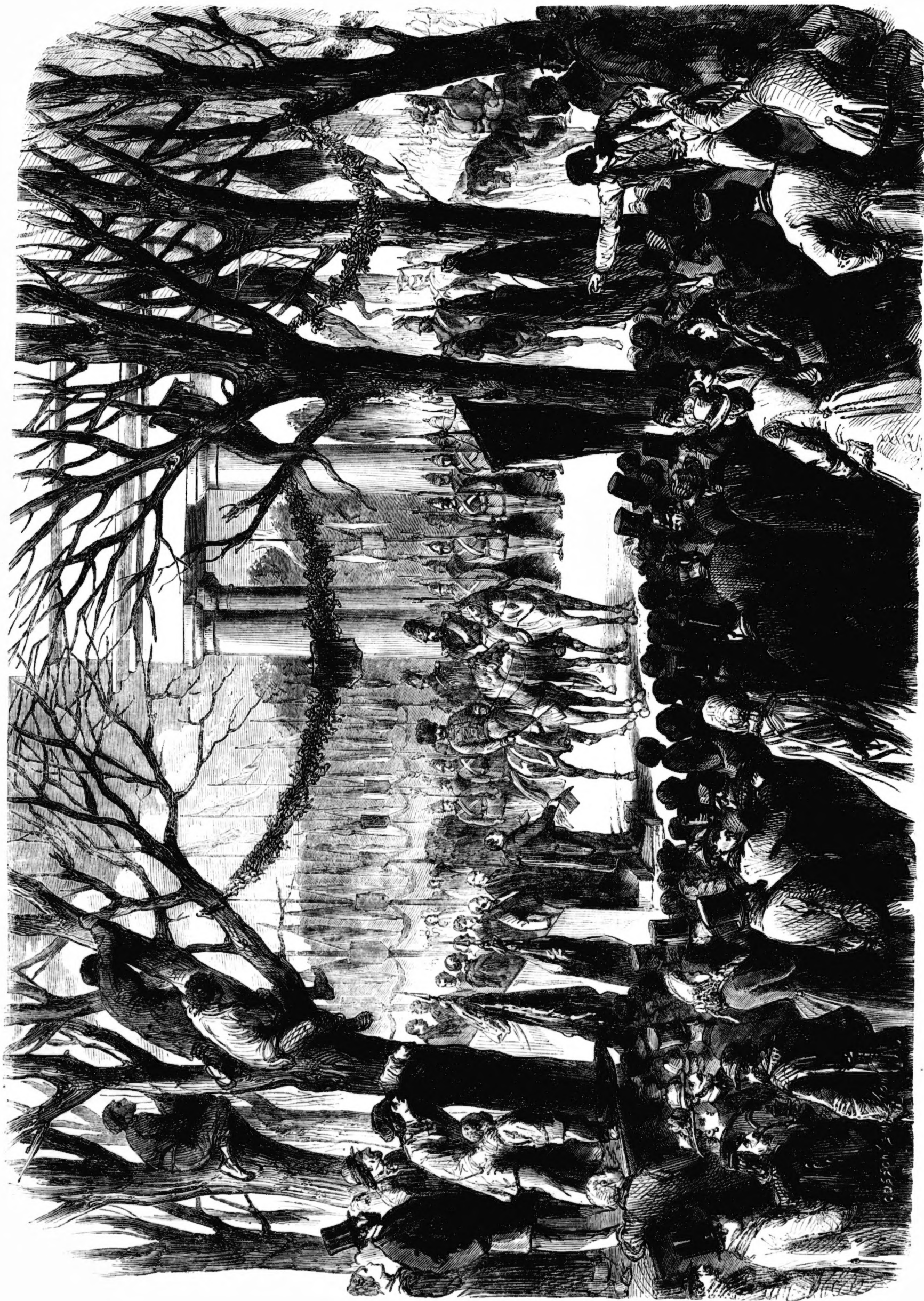
The regiments entered with bands playing, and as each passed through the Brandenburg Gate it was saluted with presented arms and three loud cheers by the regiments of the Old Guard stationed at the Paris-square. When all the regiments had passed in, the Old Guard returned to barracks.

In the mean time, the returning troops, headed by the band, had marched down the Unter den Linden, where they were greeted on all sides by loud cheers and the waving of handkerchiefs, and almost buried under wreaths and garlands of flowers. At the statue of Frederick the Great the troops formed for the march past, which took place in the same order as the regiments had entered. The carriage containing the Queen, the Queen Dowager, and the Crown Princess halted close to his Majesty, while the rest of the Royal Princesses surveyed the spectacle from the windows of the Palace.

The two regiments of the Grenadier Guards were led past the Royal carriage by the King, while the Crown Prince, riding to the right of General von der Mülbe, headed the infantry brigade of the Guard. Then followed the infantry, the riflemen, and the pioneers. The artillery, led by Prince Charles, brought up the rear.

The march past being concluded, the colours were carried into the palace. The number of Dannebrog borne by the Guards amounted in all to seventeen.

In the evening the city was illuminated, after the manner of the people of Berlin—that is to say, with very little gas, but with a considerable number of wax candles. The crowd in the streets was immense, and, by some inexplicable relaxation of authority on the part of the police, carriages and pedestrians were allowed to form a confused mob, not without serious danger to life and limb, but entirely harmless with regard to any demonstration except that of letting off the famous Düppel fireworks, the invention of Captain Schultze, the discoverer of the new gunpowder.



ENTRY OF PRUSSIAN TROOPS INTO BERLIN ON THEIR RETURN FROM THE DANISH WAR.



WILD BOARS.—(DRAWN BY H. K. HODGKIN)—SEE PAGE 11.

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The ILLUSTRATED TIMES for Jan. 14 will contain an
ENGRAVING OF THE NEW EXCHANGE AT BIRMINGHAM.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1865.

LADY SLAVE DRIVERS.

LADIES in general, we suppose, do not often read leading articles, and still less frequently peep into bluebooks. Were it otherwise, we would respectfully request their attention to the report, recently issued, of the Commission appointed in 1862 to inquire into the employment of children, a short extract from which, specially interesting to ladies, and particularly to ladies of fashion, we print in another column. The passage is short, so our fair friends, if any of them deign to read these lines, need not be frightened by the prospect of a long, dull excerpt from official reports. But if "fashionable" ladies have a conscience, or any sympathy with their sisters who live by toil—things, we fear, past praying for—they must be touched by the pictures there drawn of needless oppression and hardship which their whims and carelessness inflict upon the poor needlewomen who minister to their vanity and contribute to their personal adornment. Some of the statements in that short paragraph are so monstrous, that we should doubt their truth were they not vouched for upon unimpeachable authority and verified by every-day observation. Ladies of fashion—at least most of them—appear to be utterly indifferent as to the misery and overwork they occasion those unfortunate beings whose unhappy lot it is to be at their call. They "care not how long we work" is certainly true of some, we fear of most, ladies of high rank, or at least of those who make pretensions to that distinction. One lady ordered a dress, to furnish which involved the necessity of several girls sitting up all night, and, when told so, only remarked, "I hope it will fit." Another ordered a garment at mid-day which was to be sent home the first thing next morning, and in doing so coolly remarked, "I suppose you work till eleven and begin again at six." A third gave directions in the afternoon for an elaborately trimmed jacket, finishing which occupied several hands till past midnight, and this piece of finery was to be worn at a meeting of "some early closing association." What a heartless hypocrite that woman must have been, and with what face could she make a parade of her hollow philanthropy who had but just perpetrated such a piece of selfish cruelty! We wish we knew that "lady's" name, that we might do our best to gibbet it before the world, and hold her up to the contempt and scorn of mankind. Verily, she will have her reward. We wonder some fashionable female philanthropist did not inflict slavery upon her white Christian sisters in order to appear duly bedizened at an anti-negro slavery demonstration. There would have been something peculiarly characteristic, we fancy, in such an action. At all events, not even Mrs. St. Clair, "principled" as she was on the subject of negro bondage, ever perpetrated such oppression upon her slaves as "philanthropic" and "fashionable" ladies of London seem to do towards sempstresses. The "titled lady," too, who sent three times for a dress before morning service on a Sunday must have had a lively sense of religion, and a profound respect for the feelings, privileges, and well-being—both of soul and body—of others. We hope she was a Roman Catholic, confessed this little peccadillo to the priest, and had a swingeing penance imposed upon her for it. If she was not, more is the pity; for the confessional, in this respect at all events, might be made to serve good uses.

According to the last Census, there were nearly 55,000 milliners and dressmakers in the metropolis, about 1200 of whom were employed by what are called Court milliners; and it is amongst these last that the greatest hardships are endured. The west end of London is infinitely worse than the large wholesale establishments in the City, the "sweaters" of the east end being outdone in cruelty by the "Court milliners" of Oxford and Regent streets, who rejoice in the direct patronage of the rich and noble. This we should not have expected to be the case; but it is. The "season," in the establishments of fashionable dressmakers, is as certainly fatal to life as a battle-field; and it is intensely painful to think that those who suffer are fragile women, creatures endowed with the same softness of muscle, delicacy of organisation, and sensibility to fatigue and pain which distinguish those richer sisters who so mercilessly task their energies. The Commission whose report we are now considering was appointed in consequence of a death—that of Mary Ann Walkley—which happened at one of these fashionable West-End establishments; and, notwithstanding the horror the occurrence caused, the mischief is nearly as rampant as ever. In addition to hours of labour extending, during the London "season," from eight in the morning till eleven at night, often longer than that, and not unfrequently through the whole night, the poor girls have to do their work in hot, crowded, ill-ventilated rooms, amidst the flare of gas, in a constrained position, and without exercise or relaxation; they have to snatch hasty, and in some cases insufficient or unsuitable meals, have neither proper bedrooms nor time for rest—and all this to gratify the vanity or make up for the thoughtlessness or indifference of persons

who, if they did their duty, ought to be the guardians and not the oppressors of their sex! We doubt not that there are many high-minded and humane ladies among the rich and noble in England; but, unhappily, they seem to be but rare exceptions to the general rule. Fashion, we are often told, rules the ladies of the higher circles. Would that some of the high and the truly noble leaders of *ton* would bring in a fashion of practising kindness, consideration, and humanity towards the needlewomen of London: for, truly, the inhumanity of woman to woman causes infinitely more mourning than the inhumanity of man to man.

But as this appeal has often been made before, and always in vain, other means to stop the mischief must be adopted; and we hope the next Session of Parliament will not be allowed to close without a measure founded on the Commissioners' report being passed to protect the helpless dressmakers against the oppression they now endure. The Commissioners say that they "hold it to be satisfactorily established by every kind of evidence that legislative enactment is essential to insure a limitation of the hours of work, and to place the work-rooms and sleeping apartments in a wholesome condition." Parliament has already taken the children employed in factories, the women and young persons engaged in dye-works and bleach-fields, and the workers in mines, under its care, and with good results. A like course must be followed with regard to milliners and dressmakers; and fashionable lady slave-drivers, who have no consideration for aught save their own gratification, must be debarred by law from inflicting pain, suffering, disease, and death upon those who toil for their pleasure.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES have, this week, been on a visit to the Earl of Leicester at Holkham Hall, Norfolk.

PRINCESS MARY OF CAMBRIDGE, it was asserted a few days ago, had been married to Lord Hood in spite of the opposition of the Queen and the obstacle of the Royal Marriage Act. There is no truth whatever for the statement, which has been contradicted "on authority."

LORD DERRY'S TRANSLATION OF "HOMER" is in so great demand that very few of the booksellers can get supplied with the quantity they want.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA has sent a splendid Christmas-tree to the children of the Emperor of Austria. It remained exposed to view for some days in the Imperial palace.

THE KING OF ITALY paid a visit to the Theatre Royal, Turin, on the night of the 1st inst. He went in state, and was, it is declared, received with enthusiasm. This was the King's first public appearance since the Convention and the Turin riots, and the event was looked forward to with much interest.

LADY MINNA FITZALAN HOWARD, aged twenty-one, second daughter of the Duke of Norfolk, has taken the black veil in France.

THE ELDEST SON OF LADY CHARLES WELLESLEY, who is heir to the dukedom of Wellington, and who is in his eighteenth year, is shortly to be gazetted to the Grenadier Guards.

THE EXECUTORS OF THE LATE MR. DAVID ROBERTS intend to have an exhibition of all his drawings, to be open in London, we believe gratuitously, early in the spring.

THE PRUSSIAN CHAMBERS have been convoked by a Royal decree for the 14th inst.

A PESTILENTIAL FEVER has followed the storm recently experienced at Calcutta.

A NEW CONFEDERATE RAM is said to be lying at Selma, in Alabama, receiving her armour-plating.

AUSTRIA AND SAXONY have declined the proposition made to them of acceding to the treaty of Geneva relative to the neutrality of ambulances in time of war.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR EDWARD LYTTON BULWER, who has been staying at Hastings, is in better health, and there is every prospect that he will be able to resume his place in the House of Commons at the meeting of Parliament.

THE LOST BOOKS OF THE ANNALS OF TACITUS, relating to the reign of Caligula, have been discovered in Catania, in pulling down an ancient edifice.

MRS. LONGWORTH YELVERTON has, it is asserted, left the Roman Catholic Church, and now attends the ministrations of the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Alexander, the chief of the Scottish Congregationalists.

MANCHESTER has determined on the site for a new Exchange. This great building—the heart of a commercial county—is to stand on a plot of ground very near the existing edifice.

A BUILDING for the permanent exhibition of works of art, science, and industry is to be erected at Laeken, for which purpose a company, with a capital of three millions of francs, has been formed at Brussels.

A COMPANY has recently been formed in New York, styled "The American and British West India Cotton Company," which has leased for a term of years 2000 acres of land on Long Island, one of the group of the Bahamas.

A MARRIAGE is arranged between Lord Garlies, eldest son of the Earl of Galloway, and Lady Clementina Churchill, daughter of the fifth Duke of Marlborough. The fair fiancée is only in her seventeenth year, and has never yet been presented.

THE MUNIFICENT DONATION OF £1000 has just been forwarded to the Newport-Market Refuge by Messrs. Albert and D. Sassoon, the sons of the late distinguished merchant and philanthropist, Mr. David Sassoon, of Bombay.

THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION BUILDING will be finally swept away immediately after Monday, Jan. 23, on which day the remaining materials are to be sold by auction on the spot.

GENERAL CLEBURNE, "Pat Cleburne," who was killed on Nov. 30, in the attack on the Federal position at Franklin, near Nashville, was an Irishman, and formerly served as a private in the British Army.

THE CAPTAIN AND MATE of a Russian ship lying in the Royal Dock, at Grimsby, were suffocated in their berths the other night by the fumes of a charcoal fire which was burning in the cabin.

A FIGHT for the championship and £400 took place on Wednesday, between Marsden and Wormald, in which the latter gained an easy victory.

CROMWELL HOUSE, Highgate, was partially destroyed by fire on Tuesday night.

A FINE YOUNG GIRL, seventeen years of age, named Jane Louisa Antrobus, has been burnt to death through wearing greatly-distended skirts. She was passing in front of the fireplace, in the room of a friend, when her dress swept against the grate, and in an instant her clothes were in flames. The injuries she sustained caused death.

A TENANT OF THE REV. SIR E. COLT, at Wansell, in the county of Gloucester, having shot several foxes, the Earl of Fitzhardinge called together the sportsmen who follow the Earl's hounds to deliberate on the matter, and a deputation to the Rev. Baronet was appointed.

A YOUNG LADY suddenly fainted at a ball near Königsberg a few evenings since; and it was afterwards proved by the doctor who was called upon to render aid that her indisposition arose from the presence of arsenic in some green ornaments in her hair and in the trimmings of her dress, which were of the same colour.

NEW-YEAR'S DAY appears to have been kept in the City with great sobriety. At the Guildhall Police Court, on Monday, there was not a single case of any kind to be dealt with by the presiding Alderman. This maiden session was marked by the presentation of a pair of white gloves to the Alderman.

THE REV. DR. F. H. BURDER, who was for many years one of the shining lights of English Nonconformity, has just died. Dr. Burder was a Dissenter of the old school, taking little interest in general politics and devoting himself entirely to ecclesiastical work. He was an earnest and eloquent preacher, and was eighty-two years of age at the time of his death.

IRA ALDRIDGE, the African tragedian, who has already gained great renown by his performances throughout most parts of the civilised world, is now starring at Kasan, some 400 miles east of Moscow.

PRINCESS BACIOCCHI, who is residing at her estate at Korn-Er-Hoat, in the Morbihan, having learned that typhus fever was raging at Lorient among the marine infantry quartered at the arsenal, proceeded there to visit the sick and offer them encouragement and consolation. On quitting the town she left 1000*l.* to be distributed in assistance to the poor sufferers.

A HEAVY FALL OF SNOW occurred in Dartmoor on Saturday night, which blocked up the roads. A young man, a schoolmaster belonging to the convict prisons, lost his life in attempting to walk from Tavistock to the prisons at Princetown, a distance of seven miles. His body was found in a snow-drift, on Sunday night, by the prison officers. Another man had a narrow escape. He was found insensible.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL OF FRANCE, having heard that the pupils of the colleges would only have two days' holiday, in consequence of New-Year's Day falling on a Sunday, requested that a third day might be accorded. The Minister of Public Instruction, in accordance with that wish, wrote to the Rectors to say that the pupils were not to return until Tuesday evening instead of Monday.

THE VICARAGE OF ST. LAWRENCE, Appleby, lately became vacant by the death of the Rev. Joseph Milner, M.A., and it fell to the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle. The Dean and Canons present in turn to the livings in their gift, and the living of Appleby came to the turn of the Venerable Archdeacon Phelps, who has nominated himself to the living, and thus becomes Vicar of Appleby.

THE GREATER PORTION OF THE HAVANNAH CIGARS imported to this country, and also large importations for the French Government, are now brought to Southampton by the Royal Mail Company's steamers. The Seine, which arrived at that port on Saturday morning, brought 882 cases of cigars from Havannah, of which number 530 cases were for the French Government. Most of the cases for France contain 10,000 cigars each.

M. DUBRAY, statuary, about a year ago, had just completed the model of an equestrian statue of Napoleon I., for the Hotel de Ville, at Rouen, when the iron supports of the work gave way beneath the weight of the mass of plaster, and the statue, falling to the ground, was crushed to pieces. Nothing discouraged, M. Dubray again set to work, and in ten months the statue has been again completed, and is now ready to be cast in bronze.

THE LIBRARY OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF STRONGNAES, Sweden, was destroyed by fire on the 21st ult. It contained a great number of Scandinavian antiquities, valuable manuscripts, and rare books, which came from the pillage of the convents of Bohemia and of Moldavia during the Thirty Years' War. The library was founded in the fifteenth century, and science and literature have by this catastrophe suffered an immense loss.

A STEAM-BOAT COLLISION took place last week on the Clyde, near Gourock, when the Earl of Carlisle ran down the Guy Fawkes in mid-channel, and four men were drowned. There appears to have been some misunderstanding as to the course the vessels should steer, and it is said there was also some delay in the crew of the Earl of Carlisle lowering their boat to pick up the drowning men.

A LITTLE GIRL, named Hanks, was carrying a penny lamp filled with paraffin oil when the lamp became so hot that she dropped it. The flames ignited her dress, and she was so fearfully burnt that she died in Holborn Union. At an inquest on her body Dr. Lankester commented on the danger arising from the imprudent use of paraffin, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

PASSING through a field lately, when I was down in the country, I met with a shrewd old labourer, whom I shall name Joe Banks, with whom I had often aforetime had a chat. "Bad times for farmers, Joe?" said I, inquiringly. "I dunno ser much o' that," replied Joe, as he vigorously chopped an old hedge which had grown wildly at the bottom, and harboured "varmint," as he would have said. "Why, wheat is under 5s. a bushel, and barley hardly 4s!" "So I've heard; master so'd as good a sample of wheat as ever wer grow'd last week at 23s. a load (five bushels), and some spanking barley at 29s. a quartun. What wuts and beuns fetch I dunno." "Well, that's bad, isn't it?" "It's a huncomon low price, tubbe sure; but then," said he, stopping his work for a moment and looking me in the face, "look at the craps they git; nobody niver seed sich craps afore, Sir; leas'tways, for the matter o' that, I neen't say sin no time, fur there niver wor sich craps afore at no time. Now, yer look here, Sir; yer see this 'ere fild; well, when I were a booy, this 'ere fild used to grow about, what shall I say—sartinly not more nor five load an acre; and last year as ever wor, if we got a bushel off on't, we got twelve load, and this year we got ten. And then look at the ship and the hoogs; we don't do much in the beast line, cos there arn't much grass land. But the ship and hoogs is summat woonderful to what it wor. When I wur a booy, there warn't more nor about three score ship on the farm; and now, if we've got one, we've got 300. And, as to hoogs, we niver hev less nor a couple o' score—no, not at no time." "And meat fetches a good price now, don't it?" "Mate," said Joe, spitting in his hands, and returning to work with increased vigour, "I jist believe yer; I've so'd many a hoog at 5s. 6d. a stun, and now its wuth 8s.; and what beef's wuth I dunno, cos I niver buys none; nur more I du pork, for the matter o' that—nur sell none nuther more nor once a year." "But it costs more to farm now than it did?" I suggested. "In coorse; but noways conformably to what they git. Why, my master gits more nor three times as much offer this 'ere farm than owd Gudging did, and he din't du ser bad cording to the times." "Well," said I, "I hope you get some advantage?" "No, I doant," replied Joe, sharply, and again dropping his long chopper on to the ground, and leaning on the top of it, said, "but we wunt say nuthin about that ere, if you please, cos when I think that ere I get kinder riled. I orter, but I doant. I used ter hev nine shilluns a week when I sarved owd Gudging, and I got ten now, but nun o' the tothers doant git more nor nine. Coz why? I'm an owd hand, and can du anything, and they can't, which makes all the differ, yer know." "And how many children have you?" "How menny! Why, five." "Some of them work, I suppose?" "In coorse, or else how cud I fill their bellies? One on 'em arns 1s. 6d. and tother 2s. a week. Parson cum'd t'me when I took Jim away from schule, and prached a long sarmin't about it; but I up and sed, when he'd done. Now, yer look here, Sir: It's all very well for yer to talk in that ere way, but I can't do't. I'm behind hand half-a-suvrin now, and I wunt get into debt no more for nobody. And what d'ye think he sed, Sir? Why, he tow'd me I orter make sackerfices to eddicate my children. Good Lor! how riled I was, tubbe sure. I didn't say much, though, coz, yer see, if I had I shudder bin sarcy, praps, and that wunt du no good. So I jist sed, Praps you'll jist be ser good as to tell me this one thing; I wunt ax no more; what am I ter sackerfice, coz I dunno. I arnt had a new coat fur ten year, nur yit my wife a gownd for five; we never has no mate but a bit o' salt pork on Sundays; and, as to beer, I niver no how hes more but what's g'en me; and so he went away." "Then I am afraid, Joe, you wunt have a merry Christmas." "Wunt I, tho'; but I wool, ples God; and I'll tell yer how that is, Sir. Yer see, master's got sum young childer. Well, I allers kinder takes to childer, and, somehow, they kinder takes to me, yer see. I gits 'em birds' eggs, and makes 'em whips, and du a mort o' things like that ere. Well, yisterday mornin as ever wor, when I wur a clipping this 'ere darn'd owd hedge, who shud I see a trotton up on her pony but young missus—they call her Lotty; and when she cummed she sed, 'Joe, we've bin a 'scribing to buy yer a Christmas dinner. We all 'scribed sixpence, and pa've a shillun, and ma've a shillun, and here's five shilluns, and you're to send up for some beer.' And, before I could say more nor a word, she trotted away. Darn it, master, I never wur took so back in all my life. I a'most cried, I railed did. And I'll tell yer what I sed to myself—Joe Banks, sed I, you'll all on yer hev more nor what's promised, for Scripture sez, yer bread and yer water sha'n't fail, and yer'll hev a bit of mate wuth it." And here the good fellow shook his head, and as he went vigorously to work I could see that he was almost crying again; and, to tell you the truth, I felt a sensation in my throat not common to me. At last I said, "Good-day to you, Joe, and here is another shilling, and I wish you a merry Christmas!" But I was not to have the last word; for, as Joe took the shilling and held it in his hand, he replied, "Thanky, Sir; but don't you go fur to think that I meant anything of this sort, coz I din't."

There's food for reflection here, my readers, if we think of it; and that is the main reason why I have reported this conversation—that you may reflect upon it. The first thing that strikes me is the sad fact that the makers of our wealth do not partake of it as they ought to do. *Sic vos, non vobis*, is still the rule in the farming districts. We boast of our wealth and chant the praises of our prosperity; but, depend upon it, there is something rotten in the State where an honest man cannot live comfortably by his labour. John Stuart Mill says as much as this. "That a man cannot live," he says, "comfortably by his labour is a blot upon modern civilisation."

Again, the farm labourers are not really the fools that we are apt to think them. Their ways are not our ways—their language is not our language. They think slowly, and utter their thoughts in a strange jargon; but they do think—many of them. And I, who have lived amongst them for more than forty years of my life, can testify that you may get many a sound lesson from them, if you will but listen patiently. And then, how strong to labour they are, and with what manly, patient endurance they bear their burdens! Besides which, let us never forget that they are really the creators of a great portion of our national wealth. Cobbett said, years ago, "All property springs from labour;" and this is true. Is it not, then, a disgrace to us that our labourers should be so poor—so poor that they can hardly live; and that, when Christmas comes round, they cannot, without help from charity, get a bit of meat for dinner?

Disraeli has played another card, and, for his purpose, I think it is a good one. His speech about crossing the breeds of sheep was a failure. The farmers laughed at it, and quietly told him to stick to his last. "If we do not know our business, Dizzy is not the man to teach us," said they. His lecture upon Church matters was clever and amusing for its absurdity; but was, nevertheless, very offensive to many of the clergy, and not satisfactory to any. There was a haughty, supercilious tone about it, an affectation of superiority, that could not be otherwise than offensive. Besides, our clergy do not like to be lectured by laymen. Are they not successors of the Apostles in a direct, unbroken line, and holders of "the power of the keys"? "It is for us to lecture you laymen, and not for you to teach us." But this proposal of Dizzy not to accept the Highway Act in Buckinghamshire will please the farmers amazingly; for, of all persons in the world, the farmers are most averse from the payment of taxes. They are taxed lightly in the matter of State taxes. They pay no duty on insurance. They pay only 3d. in the pound on their rents, whilst all the rest of her Majesty's subjects pay 1d. in the pound on their incomes. A farmer who rents 300 acres at 30s., pays 3d. in the pound on £450, upon the supposition that his income from the farm is only £220, or about 15s. an acre. Surely, it is more than that, or he must farm badly. Nevertheless, he grumbles audibly about his taxes, and whosoever will oppose a tax will certainly be looked upon as a "farmer's friend."

I think sometimes that I am rather too squeamish in the matter of rumours. I often hear them, and do not repeat them because I doubt their truth, or because I receive them in something like confidence. I had heard the rumour of the marriage of the Princess Mary with Lord Hood before it appeared in the papers, but would not repeat it because I did not believe that it was true, and you see that it is not true. Nevertheless, I suspect that, though it is not true that her Royal Highness is married, it is true that she will marry if she can; and that she can marry is certain, if the following extract from Dr. Fischel's "English Constitution" be a correct summary of the law:—"By the Royal Marriage Act, 12 George III., c. 11, no descendant of the body of George II., other than the issue of Princesses married into foreign families, is capable of contracting matrimony without the previous consent of the King (or Queen). Such of the said descendants as are above the age of twenty-five may, however, after a twelvemonth's notice given to the Privy Council, contract marriage without the consent of the Crown, unless both Houses of Parliament shall, before the expiration of the said year, expressly declare their disapprobation of such intended marriage." Another authority says that the consent of Parliament is necessary. The Act I have not at hand. Now, supposing Dr. Fischel's version be correct, has the Princess given notice to the Privy Council? and, if so, will the Crown recommend Parliament to interfere? and, if it should, will Parliament support the Crown?

The title of the new evening paper to which I referred last week is to be *The Pall-Mall Gazette*. My readers will remember that there was a *Pall-Mall Gazette* some years ago, with Arthur Pendennis as editor, and generous George Warrington and jolly Fred Bayham on the staff of contributors. I have authority to say that the new paper is not to be the organ of the Conservative party, as has been reported. It is to be, as far as possible, thoroughly independent of all political parties.

"Music hath charms," &c., and everything about Rossini must be interesting. I send you a good thing, and which, though he said it some time ago, I have not yet seen in print. Wagner sent a mutual friend to the great *maestro* to ask his real opinion of the merits of his (Wagner's) opera of 'Tannhauser.' "Tell Wagner," replied Rossini, "that I am compelled to adjourn my judgment, for 'Tannhauser' is the music of the future, and my strongest wish is to be able to give him my unbiased opinion of his work in about fifty or sixty years' time from the present date."

As London is usually dull at this season of pantomimes and sore throats, will you permit me to write a little about Paris? It is, at least, a gay subject than our own metropolis. A collection of Chinese curiosities is now on sale at the Hotel Drouot, and the various articles are fetching fabulous prices. I read in a Paris paper that a collection of French curiosities is now on sale at Pekin, and that they are also selling at fabulous prices. The journal in question goes on to say, "When we are entirely furnished à la Chinoise, and the Chinese are entirely furnished à la Française, probably the two sales will recommence." M. Rénan, the author of the famous "Vie de Jesus," has gone to the Pyramids, where, I suppose, "forty centuries look down upon him." It must be an agreeable thing to be contemplated by forty centuries, particularly when the forty-first is not likely to contemplate you at all.

The other day I heard of a father—one of the good old style of fathers, who improved every occasion that offered of instilling the experiences of years into the youthful mind—saying to his boy, "You see, my son, in this world we should be prepared for everything. For instance, this year Christmas Day falls upon a Sunday; as a natural consequence New-Year's Day also falls upon a Sunday. Who knows next year if Christmas Day or New-Year's Day will fall on any day at all?"

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The new comedy at St. James's is of Parisian parentage, and as charming a piece as has ever been transplanted from the famous Gymnase. It possesses no story, and its incidents may be briefly told. Captain Freeman, a returned and retired Indian officer, arrives at the Bellevue boarding-house in the fashionable watering-place of Winkleborough-on-the-Sands. There he meets an old friend, one Mrs. Sutherland, and another old friend, Mr. Orlando Middlemark. Captain Freeman is one of those brave and honourable "plungers" who, desperate in the field, are diffident in the drawing-room. He wants a wife, but dare not propose to any woman. He asks the advice and aid of Mrs. Sutherland, and that fascinating widow promises that she will so manoeuvre that Miss Edith Leslie, a very desirable young lady residing in the house, shall become his bride; but here arises a difficulty. Mr. Orlando Middlemark, who is the very reverse of the Captain—a perfect carpet-knight, an admirable waltzer, with plenty of small talk, and an adept *aux petits soins*—is also bent on matrimony with Edith; and Mr. Middlemark and the widow challenge each other, and the duel begins. Does Mr. Middlemark offer his arm to Edith to conduct her to the ball-room, Mrs. Sutherland drops her handkerchief, bids him give it her, and, while he is doing so, desires the Captain to secure the prize. Does he commence a conversation on "taste, Shakspeare, and the musical glasses," Mrs. Sutherland talks of India, Sebastopol, and other warlike subjects, on which she can bring out the dashing exploits of the *sabreur*. Does Middlemark place burning verses in the workbox of his beloved, the adroit widow takes care that they are received by Miss Leslie's aunt, Miss Anastasia Winterberry, a lady of a very certain age. These incidents are complicated by the meddlesome gossip of a Mr. Babblerbrook, who, seeing Mrs. Sutherland giving her timid dragon a lesson in love, runs all over Winkleborough with a report that the Captain and the widow are engaged. This report causes the impressionable Mr. Middlemark to discover that he always loved Mrs. Sutherland better than Edith, and he begs the Captain to inter-

cede for him with her. Middlemark's sudden avowal makes the dragon reflect, and that unusual process over, he arrives at the conclusion that of all the women in the world the widow is the only one to make him happy; and, till within five minutes of the fall of the curtain, the audience are uncertain as to how the three couples will pair off. Eventually the Captain is accepted by Mrs. Sutherland, Middlemark by Edith, and the elderly Anastasia plights herself to Mr. Babblerbrook. "A Lesson in Love" is excellently acted. Mr. Charles Mathews finds the part of Orlando admirably suited to him. He is light, volatile, intellectual, and unimpassioned; and Mrs. Charles Mathews is equally happy as the good-humoured widow. Mr. Frank Matthews was a most amusing country gossip; and Mrs. Frank Matthews's Miss Anastasia Winterberry was "a creation." As I cannot do justice to this talented lady's personation of the impressionable spinster, it is best to say so and to pass on. Miss Wentworth was a very agreeable and ladylike seaside belle. Mr. Robinson, to my thinking, was too much of the *jeune premier*. Captain Freeman should have been heavier, slower—more of a military Hercules in the toils of feminine fascination. Mr. Charles Smith Cheltenham has made a most finished and delicate adaptation of "Nos Allies." I only fear that the "Lesson in Love" is too refined to work itself into a success. Modern audiences like their gruel "thick and slab," and the light, airy, repartee comedy, with the Farquhar and Congreve style of dialogue, minus impurities, is not likely to find favour with them for many years to come—if ever.

Miss Bateman has reappeared as Leah at the ADELPHI, and was warmly welcomed by a full house on Monday last. A new farce has been produced, called "Dark Doings in the Cupboard by the Knottin' 'em Brothers." It is from the pen of Mr. Stirling Coyne, and, as will be guessed from the title, is a "skit" upon the celebrated—or notorious—(which shall I say?) Davenport Brothers. It is a very funny little affair, in which Mr. Toole gives a capital portraiture of a Yankee professor showman, and Miss Woolgar plays a servant-girl, with a liking for followers and a horror of "sperrits." Mr. Stephenson plays a small part—one of the Knottin' 'em Brothers—excellently; and Mr. Paul Bedford, as the other brother, is as vociferous and genial as usual.

And, apropos of Mr. Paul Bedford, I am told that that gentleman's benefit is appointed for Monday, the 16th instant, at Drury Lane, in the daytime. Mr. Sothorn, Mr. Buckstone, the Charles and the Frank Mathewses, Miss Herbert, Miss Marie Wilton, and other celebrities, are to appear. Box seat tickets are being sold rapidly, and stalls will soon be at a premium. Even Royal personages have sent to their "dear Paul" to secure them seats, and there will doubtless be a crowded muster of old and young playgoers. The old folks will remember "Paul" as Rubaldo, the brawny lieutenant to Alessandro Massaroni, the famous brigand; as the bulky highwayman, Hyssop, in Jerrold's charming drama of "The Rent Day;" and as Caspar in "Der Freischütz." The middle-aged will delight in recollections of him as Blueskin, "Jolly Nose," "Nix my Dolly;" and Captain Funnell, in the now-forgotten farce of "H. B." For "us youth," we still see him as Jack Gong, Black Jack, Bob Smithers, and the Kinchin. There will be a great gathering on the 16th, and, as I hope, I shall be there to see.

THE COLLECTION OF NAVAL MODELS AT SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

THE great bulk of the collection of naval models formed by the Admiralty has lately been removed from Somerset House to South Kensington, where it has become for the first time accessible to the general public. This collection was commenced by Sir R. Seppings, who was Surveyor of the Navy during some years in the beginning of the present century, and it has been continued by his successors to the present time in a tolerably complete series. The first in order of time and historic interest is the Great Harry, which was built in the reign of Henry VIII., and played an important part at the successful attack on the French galleys at Brest in April, 1513, when she bore the flag of Admiral Sir Edward Howard, whose impetuous bravery cost him his life in that engagement, which gave the English the command of the narrow seas during the whole reign of Henry VIII. This ship possesses a special historical interest also as having been the first vessel of the Royal Navy properly so-called in England, the Crown having been hitherto dependent on the Cinque Ports for a supply of vessels which were required for any emergency, and which were resumed by their owners as soon as the special service for which they were required had been rendered. The Great Harry was accidentally burnt at Woolwich in the year 1553. It is a very remarkable structure, and conveys a good idea of the requirements of ships of war at that period. The observer cannot fail to be struck with the small extent of the immersed portion of the hull compared with that out of the water, and the enormous structures at the head and stern—the fore-castle, aptly so called, and the poop, intended to harbour and protect large numbers of bowmen and arquebusers, who played the most important part in naval engagements of those days, which were chiefly carried on hand-to-hand. The broadside guns were small and of light weight. With an armament similar to that of our modern ships, the Great Harry would have been absolutely dangerous. As it was, it must have been a matter of no slight peril to navigate her during high winds and through heavy seas, even in the Channel. To have crossed the ocean in her would have subjected the bold mariners who attempted it to almost certain shipwreck. It is instructive to observe in the series of models of later date how very gradually the dimensions of the fore-castle and poop were reduced to meet the exigencies of a heavier and more effective armament, and of ocean navigation. A strongly marked fore-castle and poop were characteristic of our ships until nearly the middle of the eighteenth century, while the practice of building large vessels, with flush decks, as in the case of our ironclads, has been introduced only within the last few years. Between the building of the Great Harry and that of the Royal Sovereign, or Sovereign of the Seas, built in the reign of Charles I. with the ship-money, the collection of which led to such notable results, an interval of nearly a hundred and fifty years occurs. The vessels which played so important a part in the reign of Queen Elizabeth in defeating the Spanish Armada and establishing the supremacy of England at sea were hired from the private trade to meet the emergency, and reverted to their original owners as soon as the emergency was passed, and were engaged probably during the remainder of their existence in a traffic much resembling piracy, which completely broke the Spanish power at sea. The Sovereign of the Seas was built, in 1635, by Mr. Peter Pett, the second of a generation of naval architects who were the chief constructors of the Navy from the reign of James I. to that of William III., and is a considerable improvement on the Great Harry. From this time the series of models is tolerably complete, though the names of many of those of the period are unknown. Among those possessing an historic interest may be mentioned the Victory, of one hundred guns, built in 1735, lost in the Channel in 1744; and her successor, launched in 1765, the renowned flagship of Lord Nelson at Trafalgar, in 1805, which still, as the flagship of the Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, perpetuates to successive generations the memory of that glorious era in our naval annals; the Royal William, built in 1682; and the Royal George, launched in 1756, which went down at Spithead, with Admiral Kempenfeldt and all her crew, in 1782.

The models of the ships are arranged according to their rates, thus enabling the student to estimate the progress made in ship-building in this country from time to time. This was exceedingly slow up to the commencement of the present century. In 1719 the Navy Board, content with the performances of the vessels then in the Royal service, laid down a scale of dimensions and tonnage for vessels of each class—from the first-rate, carrying one hundred guns, down to the gun-brig—from which the constructor was not at liberty to depart. A vessel of the highest class was thus limited to about 2000 tons burden, and no latitude was left for improvement or for adapting the ship's carrying power to increased weight of armament. Although, as a matter of fact, some deviations were admitted, especially in the attempts which even then were made to

introduce the improved French types into our service, yet so little real progress was made that when, in the middle of the century, the master-shipwrights of the several dockyards were required to forward to the Navy Board proposals for an improved scale of dimensions and tonnage for the several classes of ships, the changes proposed were trifling, and in some cases absolutely *nil*. Thus the scale of 1719, with very insignificant alterations, remained in force until the peace of Amiens, when a greatly-improved scale was established on the plan of the French navy, the vessels of that nation having proved their incontestable superiority during the revolutionary war. Even then, however, the fatal mistake of requiring a fixed tonnage for each class of ships was adhered to, and rendered nugatory the attempts at improvement made after the Peace of 1815 to 1830, by building experimental ships to compete with each other. Sir William Symonds, who was appointed Surveyor of the Navy by Sir James Graham, in 1831, was the first constructor who succeeded in freeing himself from these fatal shackles. The injurious result of these restrictions is plainly traceable in the sameness of the model during all this period. The rule for determining the tonnage being based on purely arbitrary principles—leaving one of the dimensions, the depth, at the disposal of the constructor—led to the flaring bows, falling-in sterns, and full, deep, bodies which so long characterised our ships, and rendered them bad sailers, and especially dangerous on a lee-shore, from the great amount of leeway they made.

During this period the French had encouraged the application of scientific principles to shipbuilding with great comparative success, the French ships captured in war and taken into the service having uniformly proved to be far the best of their class. The observer will not fail to trace the causes of the superiority in the models of the French ships in the collection—a superiority due to the absence of the restrictions so fatal to progress in England, leaving the French naval architect free to avail himself of all the resources of his art.

The models of English ships of war built since 1832, under the influence of more enlightened knowledge, will bear comparison with those of any nation. The vessels of the last few years are almost unrepresented in this collection, the only model of an ironclad being that of the Northumberland, now building at Millwall. This is much to be regretted, as vessels of this class possess a special interest at the present moment. It is to be hoped that this reproach to the collection may speedily be removed.

For many centuries the principles on which the strength of ships and stability of their forms depend seems to have been utterly unknown by naval constructors. A ship—of course built of wood, there were none others in those days—consisted of a series of vertical frames tied together by horizontal planks, presenting the same mode of construction as a gate would do if it were made only of upright posts joined together by horizontal bars. Every one knows the speedy fate which would overtake a gate so put together. It is, therefore, no matter of surprise that the vessels built on a similar principle exhibited material symptoms of inherent weakness, many having been recorded as having "hogged," or "sagged"—i.e., having broken their backs by the falling in of the portions fore and aft to a very appreciable extent even in the act of launching. The very simple expedient suggested itself to Sir Robert Seppings of binding the vertical and horizontal pieces of which the ship was composed by diagonal tie-beams, or riders, thus converting the rectangle—a form of known instability—to that of the triangle, a form of equally well-known permanence. This improvement was introduced about the year 1820 with a good result, which justified the expectations of the inventor. Sir Robert Seppings, naturally and justly proud of this success, had several very elaborate and interesting models illustrative of his new method of construction made. These are to be found in this collection, and may even now be studied with advantage. At a later period, during the surveyorship of Sir Baldwin Walker, these wooden riders were replaced by iron—a simple substitution, representing, in a first class ship, a gain of 64 tons in weight, and adding greatly to the neatness and finish of the structure.

The modes of putting together an iron ship are illustrated by a series of models of parts of the Warrior, the first-built of our ironclads, one of them showing a whole rib, or transverse section; others showing smaller portions in detail, together with the armour-plating and the mode of putting it on. There are also other models of the mode of putting together the frames of an iron vessel, according to the practice of Mr. Samuda, the eminent shipbuilder.

Nevertheless, this most interesting department of modern naval construction is not represented as fully and completely as its importance merits, and it is to be hoped that the authorities of the museum will lose no opportunity of making additions to it. Among the Admiralty models will be found many sent to the Admiralty by inventors seeking Government patronage for their schemes—some of them grotesque and strange enough—all, however, interesting and instructive; for much may be learnt even from the study of plans which no sane person would think of adopting; and there are few plans so absurd but that they have a glimmering of sense in them.

Besides the Admiralty models there are some—by no means as many as could be desired—sent by private persons.

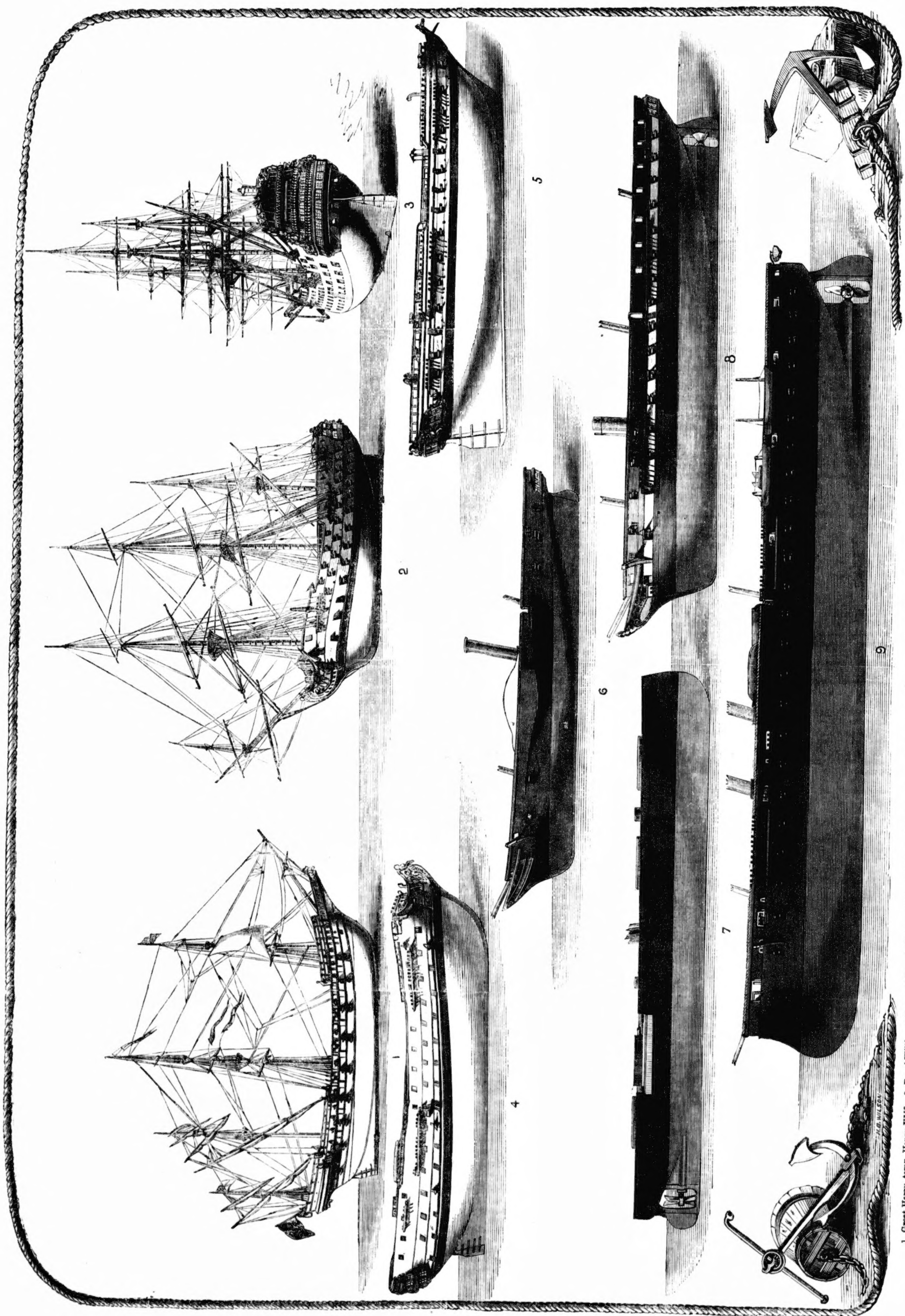
Besides the forms and modes of construction of ships, the masting, rigging, ropes, and chain-cables are amply illustrated; and models of details of many of the operations employed in the dockyards, several kinds of guns and gun-carriages and mortars, engine-room signals, and various kinds of inventions for steering, &c., are exhibited.

WRECK OF H.M.S. RACEHORSE.—Official accounts received at the Admiralty report the melancholy news of the shipwreck of her Majesty's steamer Racehorse on the coast of China, when only nine persons, including the commander, were saved out of a crew of 107. From the despatches received, it appears that the vessel struck on a rock in comparatively calm weather; but that, immediately after the accident, the sea rose, the vessel broke in pieces, and, though the crew to the last calmly and steadily obeyed orders, the end was that only nine reached the shore in safety.

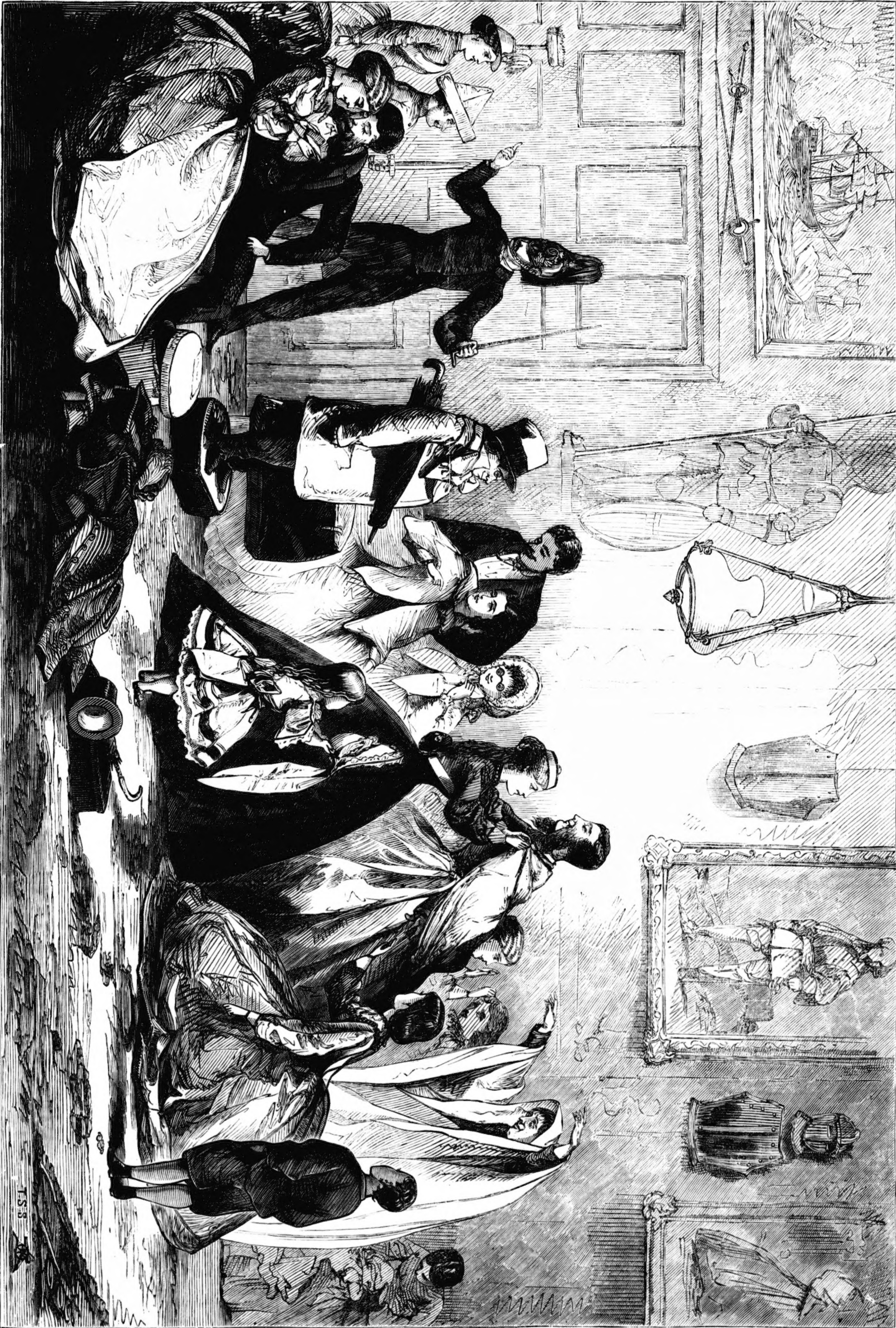
AN ARTIST WITHOUT ARMS.—There dwells in Antwerp an artist named Fillu, who, born without arms, educated his feet effectively to do their work. His taste directed his choice of life. He became a painter and has succeeded in being a very accomplished one. He may be seen, in the museum, copying with great fidelity some fine work or other. He balances himself with ease and firmness on a stool, grasps his maulstick and palette with the left great toe, and with the right uses his brush with perfect facility. The toes of his feet alone are exposed.

WARMING RAILWAY CARRIAGES.—Trials were made a few days ago in Prussia of a new method of warming railway carriages by steam. The boiler for the purpose is placed in the luggage-van, and the steam passes through tubes into wooden cylinders in the coupe of each carriage. Safety valves are provided to carry off the excess of pressure, which is limited to 4 of an atmosphere (about 3½ lb.), and a lever is placed in the carriage, so that the temperature can be regulated according to the will of the occupants. The experiments, it is said, succeeded perfectly.—*Builder*.

OPENING OF A NEW BRIDGE AT PARIS.—Another great work has been accomplished in Paris—the bridge over the Seine at Bercy has been opened to the public. The new bridge replaces the temporary bridge constructed in 1835, when suspension bridges were so much in favour, but which have all disappeared except that called Constantine. Of all the bridges in Paris, seven only have not been rebuilt within a few years. The ironwork of the bridge of Austerlitz, which was built so late as the year 1807, has been replaced by stone. The bridge of the Tournelle, which was widened in the year 1851, has now been completely repaired. The Pont Marie, which was built in 1635, by an architect whose name it bears, was likewise repaired in 1851, and the ascent diminished. The Pont Louis Philippe, suspended like that at Bercy, was taken down and a stone bridge erected. The Pont Rouge, which was likewise a suspension bridge, was taken down and a stone bridge erected, as well as the Pont d'Arcole. The Pont Notre Dame, which was rebuilt in 1659, in the reign of Louis XIV., was again rebuilt in 1851, and made level with the adjacent streets. The Pont au Change, which was inconveniently steep, was rebuilt in 1859, on a level with the adjacent boulevards. A great improvement was made to the Pont Neuf in the years 1852 and 1853. The Petit Pont, which places the city in communication with the Rue St. Jacques, was taken down in 1853 and rebuilt with a single arch. The Pont St. Michel, built in 1616, which had preserved the style of the seventeenth century, was likewise rebuilt lately; and the Pont des Invalides, another suspension bridge, was rebuilt in stone in 1859. The only bridge now existing in Paris unworthy of such a city is the bridge of Grenelle, and on that a toll is still payable.



1. Great Harry, temp. Henry VIII. 2. Royal William, 100 guns, 1670. 3. Victory, 1735. 4. Victory (Nelson's), 100 guns, 1765. 5. Frigate, 20 guns, 1756. 6. Gorgon (first steamer in Royal Navy), 6 guns, 1837. 7. Cepela Ship. 8. Euryalus, 51 guns, 1853. 9. Northumberland (iron-clad).
MODELS OF SHIPS OF WAR IN THE KENSINGTON MUSEUM.



DRESSING FOR ACTING CHARADES.—(DRAWN BY LIEUT. SECOMBE.)

T.S.S.

ACTING CHARADES.

SURELY he must have been a wise and benevolent man who first invented the amusement of acting charades; not that we believe it was a man. There is about the whole arrangement so much evidence of that beneficence which unites a touch of cynicism with a knowledge of human nature that it must surely be assigned to the feminine intellect. None but a woman could so subtly have estimated those little social weaknesses which are pre-eminently gratified by a pastime which combines the display of the stage with the propriety of the drawing-room, and is just sufficient to stimulate vanity without making demands upon self-respect. There is always about charade-acting a sense of improvisation; and, no matter how carefully the entertainment may have been prepared beforehand, it challenges, or rather defies, criticism by an appearance of impulsive good humour.

It would be well indeed if the acting of a charade were always a bit of spontaneous merriment; for close observers will be able to detect the rapid progress amongst amateurs who get up their parts of those disagreeable peculiarities which are said to be commonly exhibited by professional actors.

Soon whispers will be heard conveying the opinions of Miss A. respecting the performance of Miss B., who, forsooth, has been put into the part originally devised for Miss C., solely in consequence of the partiality of Mr. D., who could not play the love scene without a song, because she, Miss B., had made up her mind to introduce "The Last Rose of Summer" in the character of a vivandière, with a drum variation.

If Mr. X. has any comic power, which Mr. Y. begs leave to doubt (though, perhaps, he's no judge), yet it would have been more respectful to have offered the part of the disappointed traveller to Mr. Z., whose wonderful songs of "The penny trumpet" and "Mudlins for four" would have made a hit. As for that precious W., a falsetto voice can't impose on anybody when there are a pair of Cupid-wing whiskers hanging down in two auburn flakes under a pink bonnet; but some people have a way of rushing in where, as the poet says, much more competent persons fear to tread.

These remarks may, perhaps, must, come sooner or later when people go in for charades in a semi-professional manner; and it would obviously be much better, under such circumstances, to give up this simple amusement in favour of the more or less legitimate drama—say our old friend the "School for Scandal," or a domestic rendering of some extinct farce, where the comic man might have a long-desired opportunity of introducing his celebrated living imitations of a deceased actor. There is one objection to this, no doubt; and it lies in the fact that the charade has amongst its numerous claims to attention the qualification of presenting dramatic interest without the naughtiness which many most intelligent people cannot altogether dissociate from the very semblance of "play-acting." The late Mr. Albert Smith used to say that his audiences consisted frequently of a number of very good people, who would on no account enter a theatre, but yet enjoyed in his entertainment those parts which most closely approximated to what they would see in the drama; and so charades are adopted as an innocent recreation where the very mention of "private theatricals" would be regarded with no little suspicion.

And yet even this harmless amusement may be mixed with undoubted evil. Who does not remember that wonderful description of the little private drama in which naughty Becky Sharp played the principal character before Lord Steyne in "Vanity Fair"? That was in the first days of the amusement, and yet here you see how inevitably it gave occasion for all kinds of depravity; as, indeed, what game will not? People's vices peep out in their play-hours. Watch your own children at their little sports, and you will see more of their real dispositions than when they are sitting demurely at your knee, listening to moral tales, or repeating those poems which are, as it were, a kind of puff-paste homilies. Society is the wine of life, and in *vinum veritas*—the good and the evil of men and women are displayed in those half-guarded moments when they are waiting for the prompter's bell, and are not quite expected to be on their good behaviour. Then A. cannot but regard B. as an insufferable buffoon; while honest B., as a comic ghost, threatens to destroy the whole effect of the piece. Then, that conceited puppy, C., pretends not to be able to complete his costume, but must contrive to secure to himself the notice of Miss D. (she always is so forward!) and the incorrigible flirt Miss E. Then, young F. and that G. girl can only find one book between them, and set ever so bad an example to the young ones by their absurd billing and cooing; and as to H.—well, the least said about him the better, when he drops the first letter of his own name in every line he has to speak.

These would be the inevitable results of too close a rendering of dramatic proprieties, to say nothing of the terrible consequences of a break down, which always happens when the Irish servant forgets his part and comes in with the frying-pan in the middle of the lover's soliloquy, after having left a croaky smear upon the face of the noble father, who is waiting on the stairs for his cue. Then, again, look at theatrical dresses. What is more expensive than a real theatrical wardrobe? Let nobody make the mistake of supposing that any old thing will do. Stage dresses must be well made and fit accurately, or they are terrible in a drawing-room; and very few people have sufficient ingenuity to make a presentable costume out of chintz and American leather cloth with a square foot or two of tinfoil and a tow wig. Anybody who believes that theatrical dresses are but rags and tinsel may undeceive themselves by looking at a playbill, where they will see that the dresses are by Mr. June and the wigs by Mr. Parsonson, each of whom have a large line all to themselves, and are said to "dress the piece admirably."

No! It is best to "make the thing up all in a minute," and to come on before the folding-doors in all sorts of ingenious disguises of dissed drapery, coal-scuttles, long brooms, table-covers, tea-trays, toasting-forks, and bell-ropes, then everything will be arranged too quickly for the growth of little jealousies; the buffoonery of A. will be amusing; the flirting of F. and G. will appear, under the circumstances, quite natural; and even the incorrigible C. will be justified in calling D. and E. to his assistance.

If you should aspire to real dramatic art, and venture on a comedy or a farce disguised as a charade, take care to have it written by a practised hand, or its jokes will want point and its situations be lamentable failures. There are surely a number of very clever dramatists, as yet unrecognised at the regular theatres, who—but no!—avoid it altogether, and keep to the good, honest impromptu, which will make your audience laugh at its absurdity even where they may scarcely recognise its wit.

HER MAJESTY'S NEW-YEAR'S GIFTS TO THE POOR.—The distribution of her Majesty's New-Year's gifts to the poor of Windsor and the district took place in the butcher's market, under the Townhall, Windsor, on Monday morning, in the presence of Mr. W. R. Harris (the Mayor), the Rev. H. J. Ellison, Vicar of Windsor; the Revs. Messrs. Simpson, Locke, and Stone of Windsor; the Rev. T. Carter, of Clewer; the Rev. H. Hawtreys, of Holy Trinity, Windsor, &c. The gifts consisted of quantities of coals, weighing from one to three cwt., which were sent to the recipients' homes, and pieces of beef from 3 lbs. to 7 lbs., which were bestowed in the market under the direction of the clerk controller of the kitchen at Windsor and Mr. Renwick. As soon as the gates were opened the market became thronged with those entitled to her Majesty's bounty, and the distribution of the beef was commenced. Gradually the large piles of meat were reduced in size as the recipients, with smiling faces, retired, and in about twenty minutes all had received their gifts. During the distribution the bells of the parish church of St. John rang out a merry peal.

THE REVENUE.—The revenue accounts for the year and quarter ending Dec. 31 are published. They are most satisfactory. The total revenue for the year is £70,125,374, against £70,433,620 in the previous year. This decrease of £308,246, in the face of the reductions of taxation which have taken place, is remarkably small. The principal decrease is in the property tax, which has yielded £1,807,000 less than in the previous year. The other head under which there is a decrease is customs, to the extent of £886,000. The reduction of the income tax and tea and sugar duties fully account for these. All the other sources of revenue show an increase, that of excise no less than £1,598,000. The revenue for the quarter ending Dec. 31 was £11,069,596, being £248,570 less than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. This decrease is in customs, stamps, and property tax, in all of which there were reductions of taxation.

Literature.

Life with the Esquimaux, &c. By Captain CHARLES FRANCIS HALL. With Maps and One Hundred Illustrations. 2 vols. Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

There are many points about these volumes which can only be described as fascinating—at least, to all who have a scrap of love for daring, difficulties, and danger. The "moving accident" has been Mr. Hall's delight, if not his "trade," in all but very few ways. He has consented to be half dead with sea-sickness, to be nearly wrecked, to fight bears and other beasts upon and under the ice, to shoot off an eyebrow, to have his life dependent on a shoestring, together with a thousand and one other adventures, including the almost habitual consumption for two years of food at mere mention of which the stomach would revolt, were it not for the absolutely grotesque manner in which the consumer appears to have enjoyed it. Voltaire (a well-known paragraph) said that "Rousseau really tempted a man to walk on all-fours;" and, if anything could induce a pure Londoner to give up the sweet, shady side of Pall-mall, the club, opera, Chiswick (that was), the Derby, with Richmond and Greenwich, and the varieties of civilisation suggested by those names, it certainly might be for the unsophisticated enjoyments of living in snow huts, eating everything you could get raw, especially blubber and entrails, keeping the hands from picking and stealing and the tongue from lying and slandering, and, in short, the practising of all the Ten Commandments, and an indefinite number of good resolutions, generally considered incompatible with limited suffrage, Palladian architecture, Harvey's sauce, taste, Shakespeare, and the musical glasses. But perhaps it would be as well not to emigrate too hastily. The plain fact is that Mr., or Captain, Hall has seen a mirage in the desert. He was thirsty and saw a lake, and was more than ever contented when it proved to be salt and bitter sand. What a talent for getting through life!

Captain Hall is a good gentleman of Cincinnati, who does not necessarily believe the last word that is told him, and does not take for granted that a thing is settled because somebody tells him it is. In the year 1860 he did not believe that Sir Leopold McClintock had ascertained the fate of Sir John Franklin and his crew, however he might have settled the question of the North-West Passage. His belief, from study of the Esquimaux, was that a great majority of the crew would be found living amongst them. He knew the docility and friendliness of the natives, and felt certain that white men could live in those regions with comparative comfort and safety. He determined to go, and see, and conquer, if possible; and the result of his expedition is now before us. The preliminary step was to raise funds for the necessary impedimenta, and various people contributed most liberally, their names being enshrined to the uttermost dollar in Captain Hall's pages. It was thought that the British Government would lend for the purpose the *Resolute*, which, it will be remembered, was abandoned, picked up by a United States ship, repaired and refitted precisely like her original self, and restored to England in 1856. But this most magnificent act of friendliness and courtesy was soon repaid by the dismantling of the *Resolute*, which therefore could not go, and so the Messrs. Grinnell stepped in and presented the services of the *George Henry*, commanded by Captain Budington, the very whaling-ship and captain which had picked up the *Resolute* some five years previously. So thus, at length, all was complete, and, by way of touching on the principal points of interest before us, it will be as well at once to make the capital of Greenland, Holstenborg. Here the whole party, including twenty-nine officers and men of the *George Henry*, with Captain Hall and a native interpreter, met with every possible attention from Governor Elberg and what may be called the nobility and gentry—such as the parson, the school-master, and so forth. They are Danish; and a mixture of Danish and Esquimaux is, of course, common. The Government is decidedly paternal. All Greenland belongs to the King of Denmark, and is controlled exclusively by him. It is contended that the native Esquimaux is not sufficiently advanced to enjoy without restriction the blessings of free trade. The Cobden of whalebone and sealskin hath not yet appeared. It seems that the natives are so extravagantly fond of ardent spirits that they would probably take nothing else in exchange for the goods the gods have provided them in the shape of oils, &c.; and the Governor, who is "paternal," told Captain Hall that "not for anything would he sell them a glass of liquor." From this it would seem as if the Governor had some, but, from the purest motives, not for sale. A pleasant aspect of Greenland life is the care taken that the colonists shall not starve. A portion of the Government stores is devoted to the reception of large quantities of grain, whale-ropes, butter, fish, &c., sufficient to last the whole population, 700, for two years. This is done in case the ship which is annually sent from Denmark should be lost. The provident colonists also supply themselves with a goodly store of deerskins, sealskins, waterproof clothing, &c. All the pages about Greenland teem with the freshest interest. A glimpse at a Sunday in this strange land is not without its significance:—

It was on this Sunday afternoon that I heard of a curious custom here. The dance-house is regularly opened after 4 p.m. The people go to church in the morning and afternoon; then they consider Sunday to cease, and amusement begins. I went to the dance-house, where I found the Governor, his Lieutenant, Miss Bilou, and Mrs. Kjer. Miss Bilou and the Lieutenant danced, but the Governor has not for years, and the priest and his wife never. Sometimes 150 persons are crowded into this dance-house.

I asked the Governor when the Sabbath began. He replied, "On Saturday evening, and ends on Sunday at 4 p.m." I further inquired if the Esquimaux were at liberty to work after that hour on Sundays. He said, "No, certainly not." "Then how is it that the Government dance-house is opened for balls at that time?" said I. "Oh, that is not work," responded the good Governor Elberg.

On another occasion I visited the church one Sunday morning, when the school teacher—a native Esquimaux—preached exceedingly well; and I must say that the general attention given would do credit to people anywhere. The preacher played an organ, and went through the whole services in a most praiseworthy manner. Indeed, I was much struck with the great advance made by the native inhabitants of Holstenborg in Christian and general educational knowledge. Their school is well attended, and reading and writing are carried on admirably.

Very few persons here at home have any true conception of the great advance made in education by these Greenland Esquimaux. It has often astonished me when listening to the apt and ready way in which even children would pronounce some of their extraordinarily long words, some of those words consisting of no less than fifty letters!

The following is one of their long words, but not the longest:—

"Piniagassakardinarungnerangat."

In all the trials made on one occasion in the cabin, by both male and female—by old and young—by all, I found none but could read, and read well.

I was surprised to see the rapidity—the full, clear enunciation of every syllable—with which they read; and one little Esquimaux boy seemed to exceed the rest, though all did well.

But Greenland is only just connected with the real purpose of the book. The opposite coast of Davis' Strait and the Islands are the great materials. Unfortunately, in a storm, an accompanying vessel, the *Rescue*, was totally lost, and also Captain Hall's specially built boat for exploring purposes. Consequently, when on expeditions later on a boat was absolutely indispensable, any boat that could be procured was made to do duty, and, as a matter of course, must be held as excuse for so much shortcoming as the reader may detect.

The *George Henry* once fairly cradled in the ice for the winter, the time was devoted to constant journeys on foot or on sledge. To describe those journeys here would be simply useless; and a mere sketch of the result of the two years' mission and the kind of life endured by the hardy and good-humoured travellers will be the best passport to the book itself. All the tribes of Esquimaux, or Innuits, as they call themselves, are not precisely alike, but almost always they were found thoroughly humane and hospitable. They cheerfully rub your face with snow on indications of frost-bite; and it is considered prudent, when travelling alone, to consult a pocket mirror occasionally just to see how your nose is going on—or off. The Innuits seem to be indifferent as to polygamy, and it is certain

that they do not marry for love. When a wife is dying she is carefully walled in in a small snow-house, or "igloo," and suffered to die alone; but Captain Hall is less explicit respecting masculine deaths. The men strike their wives occasionally, and apparently without cause; but, on the whole, they seem to live in a condition of more perfect amity than any other set of people hitherto described by travellers. They seem to know when a new year begins; and, most strangely, have a general religious ceremony just a week before it. They believe in a warm heaven and an icy "other place," and are troubled with a kind of priest, or denunciator, who affects to do a great deal, but is in reality a thorough-paced impostor and scoundrel. No doubt the Innuits are as capable of civilisation as the Esquimaux of Greenland. It is to be expected that every people will find out how to live; but these strange people have to exercise considerable ingenuity and patience. The seal, a chief article of food, is caught in a curious manner. The seal works a large hole through the ice up to the snow, and deposits her young on the shelf, as it were. The Arctic dog scents her out. The hunter then gently probes with a spear, and when through this he hears the seal, on coming up to breathe, give a loud "blow," the spear is quivering through her head before she can take breath again. The very Polar bears fish for the seals in the same manner, but without the spear; but whether man or bear first invented the system, and neglected to patent it, will never be recorded in the page of history. The bear does another clever trick. The seal is an easy prey, but the walrus is a more difficult customer. The bear's delight is this: if he sees a walrus quietly basking underneath a precipice, he quietly goes aloft, and topples over a good-sized piece of rock on to the walrus's head, and smashes it effectually. The natives have arms, to a certain extent; and, to use them against, they have the bear, walrus, seal, reindeer, eider-duck, &c., with, for other food, salmon and fresh fish, easily caught amongst the ice-crags. Whale seems to come naturally. The ingenuity with which they make their dresses of skins is most praiseworthy. The women chew the whale hide to render it sufficiently pliable for shoemaking, and, indeed, chew everything in order to get out the fat in the form of oil. Some of these details are simply disgusting; but the reader becomes accustomed to them as he goes on, just as Captain Hall became accustomed to the use of somebody else's teeth before bringing his own into active service. The simile just made, we are reminded, strikes the key-note of the book—that is, the teeth are involved in those passages which will create the greatest astonishment. At an early period of his travels, Captain Hall says that eating food raw is only a matter of habit; and on seeing a whale cut up, and, the slices looking much like turkey, he tried it, did not dislike the taste, but could not masticate it. The secret is to swallow whale in boia constrictor fashion. That is at vol. i, page 134. At page 171 he indulges in a dish of smoking-hot seal blood. At page 227, a variation of the same is described as "ambrosia and nectar." Sometimes a slice of raw ship's pork is relished; but a specimen towards the close of the second year must be given bodily:—

I was now living wholly on Innuut food, to which I had become so accustomed as to eat it without difficulty. Were I to mention in detail what took place, and what was eaten at our meals, it would doubtless appear disgusting to most of my readers; but there is no alternative in the matter of eating with Innuits. One has to make up his mind, if he would live among that people, to submit to their customs, and to be entirely one of them. When a white man for the first time enters one of their tipis or igloos, he is nauseated with everything he sees and smells—even disgusted with the looks of the innocent natives, who extend to him the best hospitality their means afford. Take, for instance, the igloo in which I had an excellent dinner on the day last mentioned. Any one from the States, if entering this igloo with me, would see a company of what he would call a dirty set of human beings, mixed up among masses of nasty, uncleanable flesh, skins, blood, and bones, scattered all about the igloo. He would see, hanging over a long, low flame, the *oo-koo-sin* (stone kettle), black with soot and oil of great age, and filled to its utmost capacity with black meat, swimming in a thick, dark, smoking fluid, as if made by boiling down the dirty scrapings of a butcher's stall. He would see men, women, and children—my humble self included—engaged in devouring the contents of that kettle, and he would pity the human beings who could be reduced to such necessity as to eat the horrid stuff. The dishes out of which the soup is taken would turn his stomach, especially when he should see dogs wash them out with their long plant tongues previous to our using them. But I will not multiply particulars.

The very quantity eaten sounds appalling; but, then, at times food is temptingly abundant. In a ten-years' expedition Captain Hall and two natives obtained 4300 lb. of fresh meat, besides skins for clothing and oil for fuel and lights.

Most interesting amongst the natives were an Innuut couple, who some years since visited England and were presented to Queen Victoria. It must have been a private performance, of course; for it is difficult to imagine sealskin robes at Court, and impossible to imagine Esquimaux in satin small clothes and silk stockings. The lady was named Tookoolito, the gentleman Enberbing. The latter, Enberbing, in speaking of the Queen, said he liked her very much, and she was quite "pretty." He also said that Prince Albert was a "very kind good man, and he should never forget him."

The following conversation, as copied from my journal, written at the time, will show the sentiments of Tookoolito on civilised life:—

I asked her how she would like to live in England. She replied, "I would like very well, I thank you."

"Would you like to go to America with me?" said I.

"I would, indeed, Sir," was the ready reply.

In reference to the Queen of England, she said, "I visited her, and liked the appearance of her Majesty and everything about the palace. Fine place, I assure you, Sir."

Tookoolito was suffering with a cold, and I noticed that whenever she coughed she threw her face on one side and held her hand before her lips, the same as any lady of good manners would. Her costume was that of civilisation, being a dress with heavy flounces; an elegant toga, made of young tuktoo fur, deeply fringed; and a bonnet of the style invented on the principle, "cover the head by a rosette on its back."

Such are, together with many details impossible to pursue, the characteristics of "Life with the Esquimaux." A few words will describe how far the expedition, as an expedition, succeeded. Captain Hall heard nothing about Franklin and his followers—nothing certain—nothing that might not apply to any other party. But Esquimaux history is in tradition handed from father to son; and from this Captain Hall made up his mind that there were relics of Martin Frobisher still existing, after a lapse of nearly 300 years. And these he undoubtedly found. There were large deposits of coals, red brick, fragments of various articles, and, above all, the foundation of the house built with lime and stone, recorded in Hakluyt. In fact, Franklin seems almost to be deposited in favour of Frobisher; for, going up what has always been laid down as Frobisher's Strait, it is discovered to be no strait at all, but a bay! Other points to be mentioned are, that Captain Hall planted the American flag on a fertile tract of country called Kingaita; that he is now perfectly conversant with the Esquimaux or Innuut language; and that, in July, 1864, he once more set sail for the Arctic regions in search of the fate of Franklin's followers.

The reader must expect a book by a pioneer. It is no professional author's work. Hearty, and manly, it cannot fail to please; although its extreme diffuseness is embarrassing. The one hundred woodcuts are beautifully drawn and engraved, and in every respect are valuable and welcome additions to the text.

Lilliput Levée. With Illustrations by J. E. Millais and J. G. Pinwell. Alexander Strahan.

We have already called the attention of our readers to some good books for the young, issued this season. Prominent among them were "Merry Songs for Little Voices," "The Stealing of the Princes," and one or two beautiful volumes by Mr. Charles Bennett. But here is another book which is sufficiently notable to claim a word by itself; and, though dating from Christmas, it is a book for all seasons.

"Lilliput Levée" is a volume of toy poems; not "poetry for children," but child-poetry, sung in that happy borderland in which young and old meet pleasantly and freely. Child-legend, child-feeling, and child-playfulness are wrought into picture and music by the author, who seems to us to have a keen perception of the sweetness that there may be in life, an exacting love of a clear moral atmosphere, and a faculty for being playful with a meaning which keeps him from mere nonsense. Of the illustrations we will

only say that Mr. Pinwell's "Little Christel" is so charmingly conceived that we should be glad to see some more of the same sort from his pencil.

"Lilliput Levée" is eminently a book to read aloud, by the fireside in winter, as well as out in the garden in warmer weather, when the family ring is formed. We hear a great deal about reading aloud in the domestic circle; but it is very inconvenient to read aloud verses so carelessly put together that your teeth are shaken in the effort to bring out the melody. Most of the producers of playful rhymes think their work done when they have taken care that the accents fall in the right places, and that the lines contain the proper number of syllables. But it is of the very essence of poetry that the words that convey the meaning should also fall naturally into fluent and ringing combinations. No acquired art can, by itself, bring about this result, though art can help natural instinct; but, when the work is done, art may analyse and judge of it, and the test is as easy as checking a simple addition sum. It is not usual to find a book for the young in which the magical *l m n r* are so distinctly made to rule the dance of consonants, and help to produce readability for elocutionary purposes, as we find to be the case in "Lilliput Levée." We speak with confidence, having amused ourselves by actual count-up of pages selected at random. The following little poem was surely written for a juvenile glee:—

THE WINDMILL.

Now, who will live in the windmill, who,
With the powdery miller-man?
The miller is one, but who'll make two,
To share his loaf and can?

"O I will live with the miller, I!
To grind the corn is grand;
The great black sails go up on high,
And come down to the land!"

Now, who will be the miller's bride?
The miller's in haste to wed
A girl in her pride, with a sash at her side,
A girl with a curly head!

"O I will be the miller's wife;
The dust it is all my joy;
To live in a windmill all my life
Would be a sweet employ!"

Then spake the goblin of the sails
(You heard but could not see),
"The wickedest man of the hills and dales,
The miller-man is he!"

"None ever dwelt in the mill before
But died by the miller's steel;
The whiskered rats lap up their gore,
He grinds their bones to meal!"

O gossiping goblin, my dreams will be bad,
You tell such dreadful tales!
O mill, how secret you seem! how mad,
How wicked you look, black sails!

We have intentionally abstained from explaining the significance of the title, and must send readers who want to know what "Lilliput Levée" was to the book itself. Of course it was a carnival of the children; but that is all we shall disclose.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

In the *Cornhill* Mr. Wilkie Collins, of course, continues "Armadale," and he continues it with undiminished power. It is, certainly, the best of his stories. "My Escape from Futehghur" and "Politics in the Sandwich Islands" are both of them interesting articles, of very different kinds. "A Memorial of Thackeray's School-days" is, no doubt, the paper which will attract the greatest attention, and it is very agreeable reading, though it contains little which an imaginative person might not have guessed at pretty accurately. Mr. Thackeray appears to have been a very good-tempered boy, and not fond of athletic exercises. But the writer of this paper is quite incompetent to the task of moral analysis. It is impossible to look at a portrait of Thackeray without seeing that there was a great dead weight of sluggishness in the man, and nobody seems to have discerned how this bore upon his whole mind and character. "Shakespeare in France" is signed by Mr. Lewes. But the formal signature was not necessary; the real sign manual of the author's individuality is in every line of the paper, so prodigal of thought, reading, and cheerfully-just criticism. Mrs. Gaskell is, again, capital in "Wives and Daughters."

Macmillan is a varied and excellent number. Mr. Henry Kingsley winds up his sixty-eighth chapter of "The Hillyars and the Burtons" with a short "love" scene, which is very happy. The paper, by Professor E. Cairnes, on "The Bargain" or "Contract" System in the Slate Quarries of North Wales is an important contribution to the history of co-operation. We had hoped to be able to spare room for some little account of the "Basque Pastorale," but must leave our readers to go to the magazine itself. It is impossible to abstract the article without doing injustice in some direction. "A Son of the Soil" is a very remarkable story. There is hope for the world so long as a magazine can be found to admit a novel in which life is looked at from so high a level and seen in so pure and sweet a light. I take leave very warmly to commend it to the reader. Lord Hobart contributes a short but weighty paper on "The Finances of France and England," and there is other matter in the number which is "lighter."

In *London Society* there are, this time, some good, amusing papers. "Scenes in Court" is, in my opinion, the best. "Custom, as it affects Dinner-time," is written with unpardonable slovenliness. Every journalist knows that a good deal must be pardoned because of the conditions under which the work has to be done; but there is a limit.

In the *Sixpenny Magazine* I have to praise the story now going on, entitled "The Face of Thorsghyll."

Dr. Johnson—quoted by Lord Byron—said that when a man of title appeared as an author he ought to have his merit handsomely acknowledged. Lord Derby's "Homer" has been criticised in the spirit of that remark. It is very entertaining to read the long articles about it, but the reader must not allow dust to be thrown in his eyes. Lord Derby has no more of the "vision and the faculty divine" than Lord Robert Montagu, but he is a scholar, a rhetorician, and a good rhythmic artist (good by comparison, you know); so, having plenty of fire in him, he has produced a wonderfully expressive Homeric "crib" in blank verse.

Apropos of titled authors, the Duke of Argyll appears as an essayist ("The Reign of Law") in the January number of *Good Words*. He stands in need of no indulgence, for he is a good thinker and a good writer. By-the-way, did you take my bet about Charles Kingsley's story? If you did you've lost, and must pay me the forfeit. I win, Sir, upon those fairies in the fountains of Brocelande, if upon nothing else!

LORD PALMERSTON AT ROMSEY.—The annual meeting of the Romsey Labourers' Encouragement Society gave Lord Palmerston an opportunity for another public address on Wednesday. Having distributed the prizes to those labourers who had earned them, his Lordship addressed the assembled labourers on the importance of good conduct, steady and virtuous habits, to themselves, their families, and the country at large. He then enlarged on the value to the rising generation of education, not of a scientific character, but such as would come into their daily use and application, dwelling emphatically upon reading, legible writing, and mental arithmetic.

CHRISTMAS FARE AT THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.—The following Christmas fare was delivered at the London station of the Great Eastern Railway, from the 19th to the 25th of December:—2203 oxen, 7094 sheep, 153 calves, 578 pigs, 12,117 turkeys, 16,768 geese, 922 ducks, 1289 hares and pheasants, 13,950 sacks of flour; 9090 birdskins, hogheads, and barrels of beer; 1160 boxes of oranges, 3413 boxes of dried fruit, 720 bags of nuts, 3011 barrels of oysters; 72 tons of oysters, in bags; 163 boxes of almonds, 10,926 sacks of potatoes; 418 tons of meat, packed in hampers; 348 tons of poultry; 340 cwt. of fish, 76,896 quarts of milk, and 1421 Stilton and other choice cheese.

OUR FEUILLETON.

ON SATURDAY NIGHT.—III.

POOR MOTHER!

MY meeting with poor mother was accidental. It was Saturday night, and I was coming from Highgate. As I came up with her just at the foot of the hill she civilly asked me if I could tell her the time or thereabout. As near as I could guess, it was half-past eight, and so I told her. "Heart alive of me, you don't say so! I'm much obliged to you, I'm sure!" replied she, and then she mended her pace so resolutely that, had I not mended mine also, she would have been ahead and out of sight in the dark in a very little while. The reason why I mended my pace was this: it had been a dull and threatening evening, and within the last few minutes rain had set in and was falling faster and faster. Though not fashionably attired, the female who had asked what o'clock it was was decent and respectable looking, and I resolved to offer her a share of my umbrella.

"I don't know how far we may be going the same way, Ma'am; but as far as that may be you are very welcome to the shelter of my umbrella, if you like to accept it."

"Thank you kindly, Sir!" replied she, "I'm going all the way to the Lower-road, worse luck! and if you would have no objection to this little basket, it would be a real favour. I'm neither sugar nor salt, as the saying is. But to tell you the truth, young man, not expecting a fall of anything, when I set out I put on my best bonnet; and if it gets sopped, and the green runs into the straw, I should never forgive myself. Not that finery troubles me; only it looks so not to have a decent rag to come out in."

I certainly was not aware of the basket when I made her the offer, but though of the ordinary family marketing sort, it was not full-sized, and the lappets of her shawl nearly covered it. So I assured her that I had not the least objection to the basket, and that it only gave me concern lest it should be fatiguingly heavy.

"There's nothing at all in it, barring the basin for my butter," replied she, pleasantly.

"But you don't mean to say, Ma'am, that you come all the way from the Lower-road to Highgate to fetch butter?" I asked.

"Lord love the man! no," replied my free-spoken, little old woman. "It's nothing to carry, and, by bringing it with me, I am able to do my errands at once; for if there is one thing I don't like more than another, it is running in and out like a dog in a fair on Saturday night. Where there's eight of 'em, as is the case with me, Sir, and three only able to wash themselves, and they not always willing, and requiring to be looked after with the eyes of a hawk, there's enough to do without running about the streets half the night."

Seeing that I was expected to say something, I remarked "that doubtless a family of eight was a heavy responsibility."

"Eight! Why, there are eleven, and that's speaking only of those alive," replied the chatty old soul, proudly. "I've got a boy and a gal married, and a third that, so she says, has reasons to be in expectation of it. That's the one that I've been to up the hill with her frock and things to-night."

"What, her wedding frock?" I asked.

"Blas the man! no; her starched lilock. Catch her being married in a lilock. She's got too much of her sister Ellen about her for that, though it is to be hoped she'll know better how to take care of it if ever she has the same luck. So her father told her the last time she came out for a holiday with lavender kid gloves on her hands, above all things. 'You'll bring your noble ninnepence to nothing, Mary Ann, if you don't watch it pretty close,' said he. 'Work away while you're able, as the little hymn says; you'd better have saved your money and put something on your back, miss. But it's like talking to a post—in at one ear and out at the other. Not that she's at all a bad girl. Six in family to cook for, and two in a perambulator between dinner and tea invariably when it is the least time, Highgate-hill being not the smallest of hills to push it up and down, and both of them so fat that their legs bow under them, is no joke at seven pounds a year, and her washing and ironing done at home. It's horse work; that's what I call it. I made the remark only this night in her kitchen, which—I will give her her due—is so clean that you might freely take your dinner off the floor boards, and you can see yourself in her tins, even to her cullinder. 'Mary Ann,' said I, 'are you aware that this makes three pair of boots as good as new, besides the kid and spring sides that Ellen gave you in a single quarter?'

'Well, I can't help it,' said she; 'you shouldn't have got me a place in such a gravelly part.' 'Well, gravelly or not gravelly, Mary Ann, your father declares that the next pair shall be all leather in the uppers, and with tips and sparrowbills.' Not that he would be seen doing such a thing, for a better father and one prouder of his gals never stepped."

I don't mean to assert that my little old woman spoke at this length without pause or interruption; but, as my share in the conversation was limited almost entirely to such common-place interjections as "Oh!" "Exactly!" and "Indeed!" I have not thought it worth while to record them. Now, however, that an opportunity presented itself, I thought I might venture to say a good word for the damsel of gravelly ways.

"There's one consideration, however, Ma'am; if the young person of whom you speak is of no assistance to you, she has ceased to be a hindrance," said I.

"Boots, boots; nothing but boots," continued she, heedless of my observation, and evidently taking up the thread of her discourse where she had let it fall slack, "it's just the bit of victuals, and the rent, and the boots, and there you are. I'm sure it's a mercy that their father has a regular seat of work, and is not in and out all his life, like many others in the tailoring trade. To be sure, it's a piece, and therefore not so brisk sometimes as at others; but you might set it down all the year round at a pound, anyhow, which is not so bad in the slop times we live in."

"But surely a pound a week is not the whole of your income," said I, "you have other sources of assistance."

"Sources of—"

"Ay! Amongst the eight at home are there none big enough to work? Have you no boys?"

"Two boys; but only one that saucers," replied poor mother, "the other one, Bill, is as civil a lad as you'll find in a day's walk. He's getting a big boy now—much too big for four-and-sixpence and just the slop of tea in the evening, finding his own bread and butter, and walking his legs off with that millinery fly-cage thing chasing holes in the shoulders of his Sunday jacket, because he must go respectable, bless your soul! and a clean shirt three times a week. Believe me, Sir, I'd as lief he left as stayed. Two shillings and ninnepence for forreparting and bits on the heels only last week, and this week leaving again in a manner that went to your heart when he came home to see his poor sopped feet. 'Why, you'd better be a coal-boy, Bill,' said I, 'or work up there at the wood-chopper's, than be such a whitened sepulchre as you are—genteel, and with fancy caps and falders in your basket, and all the while tired as any dog, and with the heels all ground out of those new worsted stockings.' 'You let me alone, mother,' is the answer he makes. 'I ain't a fool, I don't have my tea in the same room where the machines are working for nothing. Just you stay till I get an insight; then I'll talk to him.' So he put on his brothers, while I took his back and told the nasty, cheating fellow what I thought of him. 'However you could sit there and take a poor soul's two-and-ninnepence,' said I, 'well knowing that the leather you put was not thicker than brown paper, and the stitches you might draw out with your teeth, gets over me.' And there they are, coming to a fifteenpence ever since Thursday; and that idle riff-raff about the house like a great monkey, and shoeless; and ours, the most particular of landlards, looking over the wall and seeing the shelf of the kitchen cupboard in the act of being sawn up for a rabbit-hutch; and it was only his presence of mind in calling it a meat-safe, and pleading dampness of the kitchen shelf as regards victuals as an excuse for the alteration, that saved a fine row. Ah! he's a dear boy. He's a blue hen's chick, if ever a poor soul was troubled with one."

It was somewhat difficult to follow my little old woman. The "blue hen's chick," and "the riff-raff," and "the great monkey and shoeless," were, I presumed, identical. To make quite sure, however, I made the remark that it was a great shame, and that he was old enough to do better.

"Old enough? why, let me see, Sir—why, let me see, that boy was three years old in January as the first Exhibition was opened in May, because I remember making the remark that if the Exhibition had been opened just three months to the day earlier, it would have come on Jack's birthday. Polly is eighteen, and yes—no, there was nobody between Polly and Jack, which makes him sixteen come the time. That makes Bill fourteen in August, of course. And the difference between the brothers! The number of places that eldest one has had is past all belief. Not a bad boy in this main, you see, Sir, but such a spirit. I'm sure his last place but two was as comfortable a place as any boy could wish. That was at the fishmonger's near the Post Office, as you may perhaps know, Sir? Well, John, he wanted Easter Monday, which, very naturally, wasn't convenient, and, instead, they set him cleaning fish, there being a great supper somewhere. Well, Sir, there was nine pounds of fine eels in a tub standing on the edge of the sink, and what did the rascal do before he went to his dinner but take up the trap out of the waste-pipe and tilt the tub on its side, thereby getting the sack on the spot, besides choking the drainage, and costing us, from first to last, seven-and-twenty shillings."

"That prank cost him something as well, I should imagine," said I; "a few sore bones, eh?"

"Lor bless you, no!" replied the confiding old soul; "we daren't touch him, because, you see, my dear Sir, he's all for the sea. Why, when that boy was only ten years old, and he lived up here at Crummles's, the confectioner's, and got turned away for some missing sausage-rolls, he never come home, though the rumpus was in the morning. Eight o'clock at night, nine o'clock, still no Jack; and then, come ten, his father went down; and, behold you! there were the shutters up, and the girl going for the beer. So he crossed over to her, and then it came out. 'You can put them on to fry while I'm gone,' says he, when he went out; but they might as well have laid raw in the cupboard for all a mouthful of it that was touched that night; and so you would have said had you seen his face when he came back and told me. Ellen and her bean were there at the time, which accounted for the lamb chops for supper, and Sheffield himself, who, though in a large way as a haberdasher, has no more pride about him than you or me, at once got up and put on his great coat, and out they went, hunting high and low to find him till a quarter to one o'clock, when home they came, empty-handed. Never shall I forget that night, and how I paced the room thinking of a thousand things, and suicide being the idea uppermost; so that it was only on Sheffield's solemn promise of the drags as soon as daylight that I could be persuaded to lie down. Well, Sir; and what was the upshot? Why, at twenty minutes past eight, and just as we had all set down to a wretched breakfast, a knock came at the door that sent all our hearts into our mouths, and, lo and behold you! master Jack. Not downcast and with his eyes swelled out of his head with crying, as you might have expected, but bold as brass, and dressed in a blue guernsey and a blue cloth cap with anchor buttons, which he had sold his good jacket and the boots off his feet to buy. There he stood on the mat, before quite a passage full of us, holding on to the door-knob, and saying it wasn't worth while coming in any further, as he had merely come to bid us good-by; and it was only when he was begged and entreated into the parlour, and I had got him to swallow a cup of tea and to eat a bit or two of toast, that he up and confessed that he had firmly made up his mind to sail all round the world; that he was a bad boy, and didn't think it likely that he should ever be better; and that he thought the best thing would be to cast himself on some desolate island out Australia way. You laugh, Sir! Well, Sheffield, he laughed, till we came to search his pockets and found a jack-knife with a bit of string through the handle, and some filthy black tobacco for chewing, and a bit of indian ink and a needle, ready to dot the anchor on his arm; and then we found that it was no laughing matter. 'If he's bent on it, let him go,' Sheffield said. But, as I remarked at the time, when you come to have them of your own, my good Sir, you will alter your tune. No seafaring boys for me, thank you. Lor bless us, no! I should get the creeps, and so would his father, every time the wind blew. Who he takes after is a puzzle to us, except it is his god-father, that we called up from his boats at Lambeth Stairs and got to stand at his christening at the old church for a shilling. So it is, anyhow; and to this very day he's as strong after the sea as ever. Just put him out in the least, or ask him to clean so much as a window or a knife and fork when it don't suit him, and he flies in a passion and these are the first words out of his mouth, 'I ain't a goin' to stand this. Give me my cap, and I'll go at once and get a ship.' Bless you, you can't think how careful we are obliged to be."

"Well, you'll pardon my saying so," I ventured to remark; "but, from what you have told me of your son John, I think that Mr. Sheffield was quite right when he said 'If he's bent on going, let him go.' If I were his father, the next time he demanded his cap he should not be kept waiting for it."

"As a stranger, no doubt you would, Sir; but when he is known as well as we know him he is not at all a hard boy to manage. Only give him a good word and he'll turn the mangle like a lamb, or fill your tubs, or help Louisa home with the clean linen, without so much as a wry face. His savagest times are when he doesn't get his victuals to the minute. That's where Mary Ann puts me out so on Saturday night. I feel it my duty to see her once a week, and there goes two or three hours out of the worst night in the whole week. How do I make it out to be the worst night? Oh, my good Sir, it is not me that makes it the worst; it is the flock I've got to struggle with. 'Life is but a span' I hear sometimes at chapel, on Sunday nights. I don't know what the correct measurement of a span may be, but to my mind it is a week. It is a sinful thing to say; but what's my life but a week? I begin it on Monday morning and I finish up on Saturday night. It's like the judgment day: there it is at the end of the long lane that's got no turning, blocking it up so that you can't get a peep beyond it. The bit of money you get, counting even Bill's four-and-sixpence, and the trifle of money one can earn at ninnepence a dozen, and those chiefly sheets, as I assure you, and large things that wring your arms off, just carries you through the lane, and not an inch to spare—not half an inch—not even so much as an extra half pint of beer, though standing in that cold wash-house till you felt like standing in ice. It looks a lot—it certainly does look a lot, when it's put altogether on the table on Saturday night; but it's all laid out, as the saying is, before a farthing is touched; and then there's grumbling and black looks from Master John, who bought a sprigged waistcoat while at the fishmonger's, and which naturally went to make up the deficiency; and there it lays, eating its head off with interest. And there it must lay—for to-night, at all events, let him look ever so black; for, believe me or believe me not, Sir, by the time I've taken in a bit of something for supper, and settled with the butcher, and got what I want at Gawler's, and fetched Bill's boots, if I've got eightpence more than will pay for the baking to-morrow, I shall think myself lucky. Oh! you don't turn down here, Sir? Well, good-night, young gentleman, and thank you kindly for my part of the umbrella."

J. G.

THE FAIRY SEWING-MACHINE.—Messrs. Wheeler and Wilson, of Regent-street, have just manufactured, as a present from them to Mrs. General Tom Thumb, a sewing-machine, to which they have given the above designation. The body of the case is made of richly-carved rosewood, inlaid with pearl and gold, and lined with satinwood. The panels are ornamented with tastefully-painted artistic designs, representing "Cupid and Psyche in a Garden," "Wedding Scene in Grace Church," "Bridal Drive in Central Park," "Tom Thumb as Young America and Mme. Thumb as Columbia," &c. The machine is only 20 in. high and 15 in. deep; but it is, nevertheless, thoroughly adapted to practical work, and is precisely of the right proportions to suit the convenience of the diminutive lady who is destined to operate upon it. It is certainly a most elegant and costly production; and Mme. Thomas Thumb must consider herself very fortunate in being its owner.

THE NEW "CHARING CROSS."

"HARD by, near unto the mews so called, for that it served to keepe hawkes, and now is become a most faire stable for the King's horses, there remaineth a monument in memoriall of that most pious and kinde Queene Aeleonor, erected by the King, Edward the First, her most dearley beloved husband; and, certes, the memory of her loving kindnesse shall remaine worthy to be consecrated to all reternity." So speaks old Camden on the subject of the Cross of Charing—the memorial of that wifely love and piety which, with a tongue "thus anointed," sucked out the venomous humour, which to her was a "most sweet liquor," left by the Moorish sword in the wound of which the King was like to die. The memory of the loving wife, however, has survived the monument which was designed to perpetuate it, and even the meaning of the word charing, or whether the cross gave its name to the village, or the village to the cross, is matter of doubt, though some have believed it to be but a corruption of *chère Reine*.

When Camden wrote, Charing-cross was but a bowshot from the open country to Hampstead and Highgate. The Haymarket was a country road between hedged-pastures, and a quiet lane led to the pleasant village of St. Giles embowered in trees, while a hermitage stood opposite to the cross itself. This ancient monument, then one of the finest near London, was erected by the sorrowing King on the last spot where the body of his noble-hearted wife rested previous to its interment at Westminster Abbey. At eight other places, where the bier rested on that long journey from Hardby, near Lincoln, where Queen Eleanor died, similar crosses were erected. At Lincoln,

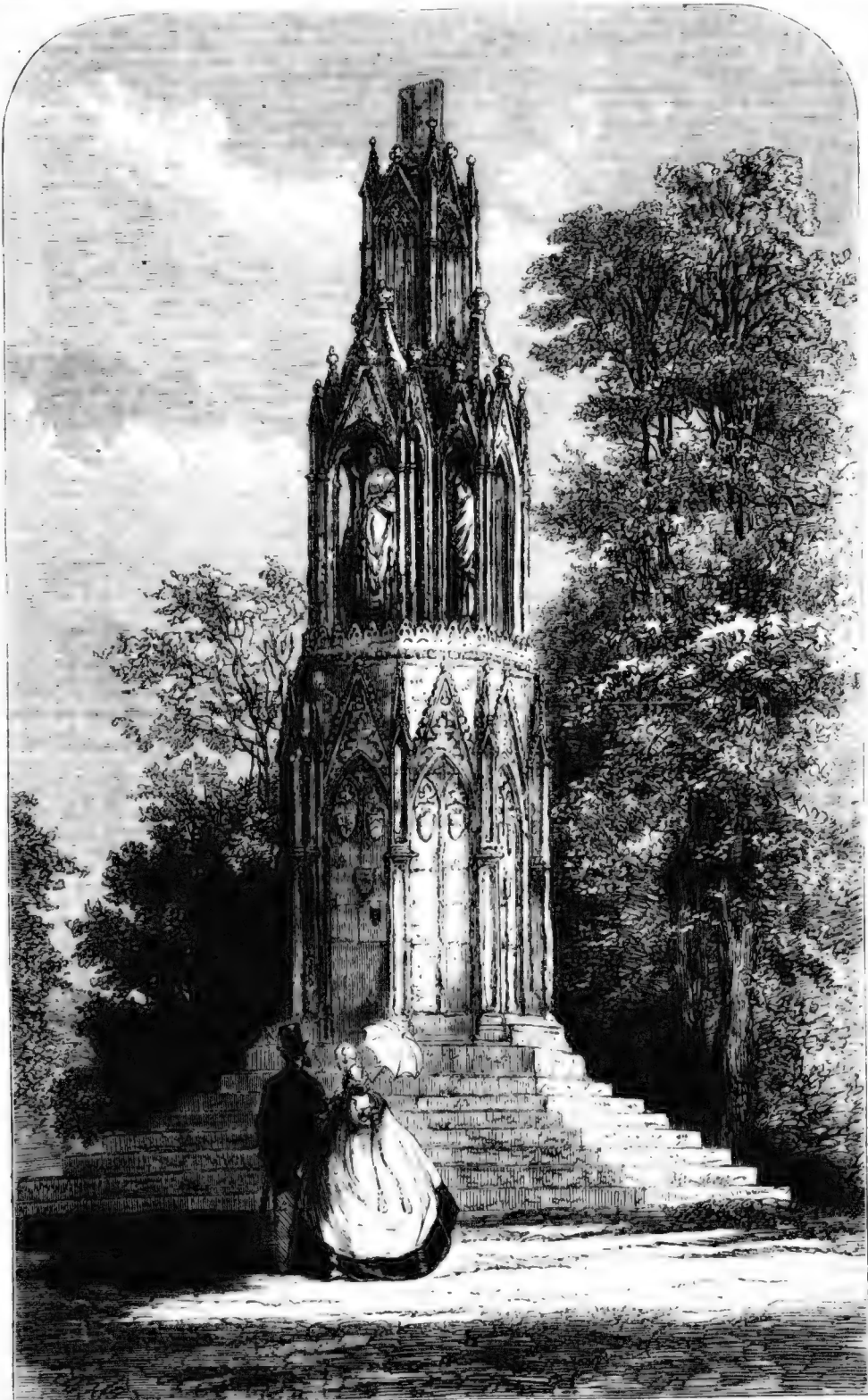
Northampton, Stony Stratford, Woburn, Dunstable, St. Albans, and Cheap. Two alone remain, those of Northampton and Waltham; and the latter is but a renovation which was effected some forty years ago in Bath stone, and is now again in a state of decay.

The Cross of Charing was begun in 1291 and finished in 1294, and was by far the most sumptuous of the nine. It was begun by Master Richard de Crundale, "cementarius," but he died while the work was in progress, and it proceeded under the direction of another of the same name—Roger de Crundale. Richard received about £500 for work, exclusive of materials; and Roger £90 7s. 5d. The stone was brought from Caen, and the marble for the steps from Corfe, in Dorsetshire. When the crosses were destroyed by order of the Long Parliament, that at Charing remained for some time; but it was eventually pulled down (in 1643), and, according to Lilly, some of the stones were used to make knife-hafes, which, being well polished, looked like marble; while other stones were used for the paving before Whitehall. The cross stood at the spot now occupied by the statue of Charles I., but there are few particulars to be obtained of its architectural details.

As nearly as possible, however, it has been repeated in the splendid monument represented in our Engraving, which stands in the area before the Charing-cross Railway station—not in the original spot where the body of the beloved Queen was set down, but still near enough to her last resting-place to commemorate her noble self-devotion. In front of the magnificent hotel which has just been completed, the cross will be a splendid object; and assuredly the South-Eastern Railway Company have reason to

THE PNEUMATIC RAILWAY.

SINCE February, 1863, the Pneumatic Despatch Company have had a line laid down between the Euston-square Railway terminus and the North-west District Post Office, in Eversholt-street; and this having been found to answer exceedingly well for the conveyance of mail-bags and light parcels, the company are now engaged in laying down a line to connect the Euston station with the General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, and both termini with an intermediate station in Holborn. The tube through which the trains will be propelled—the operation of laying down which is shown in our Engraving—is of cast iron, and is 4 ft. 6 in. wide by 4 ft. in height. The trains will be worked to and fro in both directions from the Holborn station, where the pneumatic machinery is being erected. The cutting in which the tube is laid is 11 ft. deep at the City boundary; at Hatton-garden it is 18 ft. 6 in. deep, from which point its depth decreases in its course towards Euston-square. It passes over the Fleet sewer at a depth of 6 ft., and then runs under the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway. At the west end of Newgate-street the cutting is 26 ft. deep; at the east end, 14 ft.; while its mean depth at St. Martin's-le-Grand is 12 ft. The size of the tube is equal to that of the largest sewers, and it has to be laid at a considerable depth under the gas and water pipes, which intersect the streets in all directions. It is expected that the line from the Euston-square station to the General Post Office will be in operation in about two months; but it is intended to be ultimately extended to the Metropolitan Railway station and to connect the head offices of the various postal districts. It will, no doubt, have the effect of relieving the streets of much of the light goods traffic, and thus confer an indirect benefit on the public, while it will, at the same time, greatly facilitate the transmission of parcels from one point of the metropolis to another. The Duke of Buckingham is chairman of the company, and the engineers are Messrs. Ramwell and Clark.



THE ELEANOR CROSS AT NORTHAMPTON.

congratulate themselves on the manner in which Mr. Barry, the architect, has carried out every detail of the building, and also of the genuine appreciation of his task which has guided Mr. Field in the erection of the monument.

The little that Pennant says about the Eleanor Cross—which stood near the spot on which Mr. Barry's tapering Gothic edifice is situate—leads us to conclude that the new erection closely resembles the old. It is octagonal, and it has eight figures, corresponding with its corner projections. No other of the crosses raised by the pious love of Edward I. to the memory of his queenly-hearted wife had so great a number of sides and sculptured figures. Waltham has no more than three. The conspicuous object which is to mark once again the centre of the village of Charing will be quite 70 ft. high; and it will be covered with delicate Gothic tracery, the whole of which, in accordance with the proper feeling which has dictated so noble a monument, will be the production of skilled manual labour, "machine carving," for once, being set aside for the work of Mr. Earp.

OLD HOUSE AT CHESTER.

THE house shown in the Engraving presents a good illustration of the ancient timber-constructed houses of the old city of Chester, but is chiefly remarkable for having escaped from the direful visitation of the plague which, in the year 1652, devastated all the other houses in that city. In the year 1651, while the

plague was raging at Liverpool, the good people of Chester thought to protect themselves from its fatal effects by setting a watch at their gates to prevent any person from Liverpool entering the city. But such precautions did not avail. In 1652 the plague reached Chester, and visited every house there except the one we have engraved, which now bears on its front, cut in legible characters, the following inscription, as a memento of its having thus passed unscathed through that terrible ordeal—

God's providence is mine inheritance.
1652.

When it is considered what an unspeakable blessing the occupier of the house had thus experienced, it is no wonder that he should feel God's providence to be his inheritance, and should place on his house that inscription which remains to this day to commemorate his escape and God's goodness to him.

The house is situate in Watergate-street, on the south side of the way.



THE NEW CROSS IN FRONT OF THE CHARING-CROSS RAILWAY HOTEL.

THE WILD BOAR.

THE chasing of the deer is no longer one of our English sports, unless we choose to regard the brutalities of the "Epping Hunt" in the light of time-honoured custom. It is true that there is plenty of deer-stalking over Scotch mountains and far across the Highland heather; and in many of the noble parks—some of which, like that of Knowle, are but a short journey from London—the graceful antlered heads peep out with tame, entreating eyes from amongst the trees; but there is no chasing of the deer in the sense of regular sport. Before the deer went out of the list of English game, however, the wolves and the wild hogs had disappeared, so that only the fox was left amongst vermin which were considered worthy of a great occasion, and the fattening of hogs was carried on, to the exclusion of those savage "brawners" who were once hunted for the table.

And yet, although we are, doubtless, great gainers by the fact that the wild hog has had a ring put through his nose, and that even the half-tamed herds of swine which formed so large a part of the possession of our Saxon ancestors are merged into the pens of bacon hogs that go to furnish us with great Christmas hams, there must have been many honest sportsmen who regarded this change with regret. It is true that in various parts of Europe the boar still roams at large; that he has formidable representatives in some of the dim, endless forests of Germany; and that he may be found in France on the occasion of a great Imperial gathering for the chase, and sometimes penetrates into outlying villages, where he scares the simple country folk; but there is comparatively little boar-hunting, even in those countries. In England it may be safely said that not one person in a hundred has ever seen a wild boar, and that their notions as to his habits, taken from the hog of civilisation, are strangely imperfect. It is impossible for them to realise his speed, his fiery eyes; his mad, raging charge against a foe; his terrible rush at his opponent with a strength that will lift a horse almost from the ground, and leave the horrid gash of his long white tusks in a long, gory rut; his long bristles, and his savage cunning. No! we know nothing of him; and yet Captain Shakespeare, the great Indian hunter, says:—"Of all the animals in India killed by me—the tiger, the elephant, buffalo, bison, bear, boar, panther, and leopard—not one has ever made good his charge against the deadly bullets of my heavy rifles, or against the spear, save the wild boar and panther. I consider hog-hunting to be the finest sport in the world."

India is the great field for this sport, and the animals found there are the largest and the most formidable of any in the world, roaming the jungle without fearing either the tiger or the panther, the former of which is sometimes killed by the pig's tremendous tusks. Boar-hunting in India is always conducted on horseback, and the chief weapon employed is the spear. Different sorts of spears, however, are in favour in the various provinces. The Bengal hunter uses a spear not more than 6½ ft. long, the shaft being of bamboo weighted with lead at the upper end, and with a broad and stout blade. It is not used lancewise, but is held firmly in the hand, in such a way that the point projects about a foot and a half before the stirrup-iron, so that, when the boar charges, the horse is dex-



OLD HOUSE AT CHESTER WHICH ESCAPED THE PLAGUE
OF 1652.

terously swerved aside, and the animal runs on to the spear. In Bombay and Hyderabad the spear is from eight to ten feet in length, is much lighter, and is carried under hand. "The secret of riding a

wild hog," says an experienced hunter, "is to ride as close to him as you can, keeping him on the spear, or right, hand of you. You must be able to turn your horse with the hog; and, therefore, the horse must always be in hand. In short, when the hog flags in speed, the hunter must be able to make his horse spring upon him, so to speak. The spear then goes through the foe: and, if the hog charges at the time, the increased impetus of two bodies meeting at such speed generally drives the spear through from end to end. It is a good plan, when you are afraid of losing your hog among bushes and grass, to deliver a spear at him: it hampers his movements, and he cannot conceal himself in the jungle."

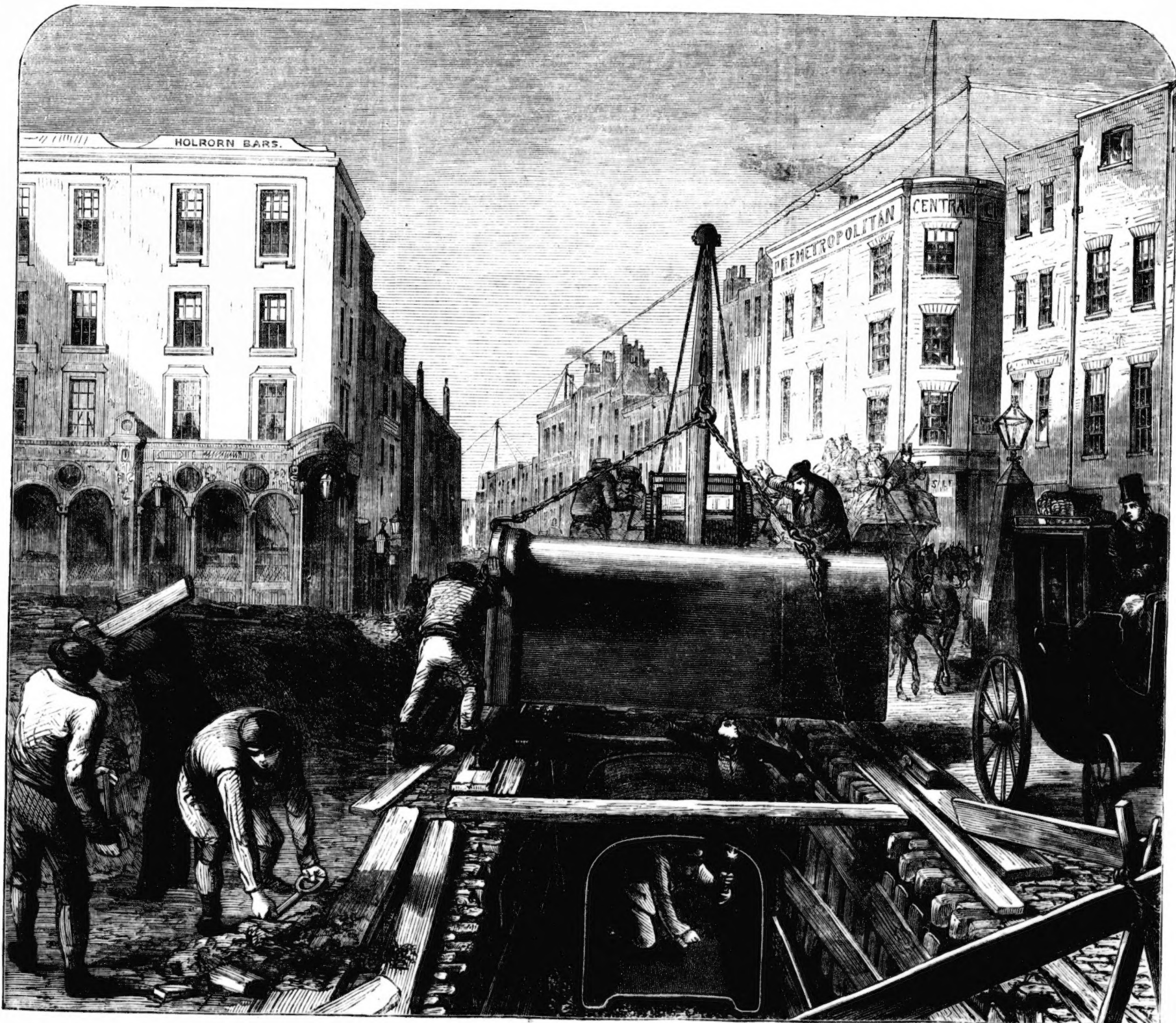
Boars have been known, when run hard, to tuck in their feet and fling themselves over banks of considerable depth, falling on their chests, and afterwards recovering their feet and dashing off again. The boar is fleetest than the fleetest horse, and is so cunning that his pasture-ground is generally many miles from his lair. He reaches his feeding-ground generally in the middle of the night, and this is the best time to hunt him, especially after he has gorged himself, as he always will if he meets with choice provender. He is then, sometimes, so slothful that he has to be roused by natives with tom-toms and cymbals, for to penetrate to his lair on foot would be almost certain death. The hunter's great aim, when the hog is first started, is to keep a hot pursuit till his game is half-exhausted, when he will frequently turn at bay.

In his exploration to the Okavango, Mr. Anderson says of the wild boars of Africa, "The speed of these animals I found surprisingly great. On open ground, when fairly afoot, I found the dogs no match for them. They fight desperately. I have seen wild boars, individually, keep off most effectually half a dozen fierce assailants. I have also seen them, when hotly pursued, attack and severely wound their pursuers."

M. Du Chaillu, in the forests of equatorial Africa, encountered a species of hog of great size and of strangely hideous appearance. It is conspicuous for a white face, adorned with several large, warty protuberances on each side, half way between the nose and eyes. These, and the singular long bristles which surround the eyes, and the long ears, ending in a tuft of coarse hair, have a very curious effect, especially as the body is of a red colour.

These animals, as well as those of India, are, of course, somewhat different to the wild boars of Germany and France, though even the latter are strong and fierce enough to make their chase a matter of some danger. In the language of French woodcraft, the piglings are called *marcassins*; the six months' pigs, which quit the parental lair, are named *bêtes rouges*, from their red colour; during their second year, when they go in herds, they are known as *bêtes de compagnie*; from two to three years old they are called *ragots*, and live alone, and afterwards they attain the dignity of *sangliers à son tiers-an*; from four to five years they are *quartannières*, and are perfectly capable of taking care of themselves; after this, they are *vieux sangliers, grands sangliers*, and all the rest of it.

Our readers will remember that some time ago gave an account of a boar-hunt in Spain, at which the Empress of the French was present; and very recently a fine specimen of this fierce game was killed in a little village not far from Compiègne by some of the Imperial party.



LAYING DOWN THE TUBES FOR THE PNEUMATIC RAILWAY IN HOLBORN.

OPERAS AND PANTOMIMES.

THE Royal English Opera Company might just as well be called the Royal English Pantomime Company. It is on pantomime that the company now takes its stand, and there is not a tenor in the troop who can vie in attractiveness with the harlequin; not a baritone who can maintain his position against the clown; not a bass who can obtain the same amount of popularity as the pantaloone. Even the prima donnas (if we may treat Italian words as though they were English) sink into nothingness before the columbine—the prima donna of the pantomime troop. At Her Majesty's Theatre the importance of pantomime is more fully recognised even than at Covent Garden; so much so that there Punchinello (a sort of pantomimic derivation) is made the hero of a sort of operatic farce.

We all know what "a pantomime" is. What does "pantomime" consist in? This is a question that has just been asked and answered in various ways before Mr. Tyrwhitt, at the Marlborough-street Police Court. Mr. Frederick Strange, the proprietor of the Alhambra Palace, had been summoned on a charge of having given public performances of "stage-plays" without possessing a license from the Lord Chamberlain. It was agreed between the solicitors on both sides that, in order to raise the real issue, certain points should be admitted; and the defendant allowed that, if he had performed what could properly be termed "a stage-play" within the meaning of the Act of Parliament, he ought to have been provided with a license. The whole question, then, turned upon what constituted a "stage-play;" and it was, as we think, falsely argued that the name of "stage-play" can be given to certain dancing performances now to be seen at the Alhambra.

Whatever may be the ultimate result of these proceedings, one immediate effect will be to make a good many people go to the Alhambra to see what the "ballet" performed there is really like. Probably we ourselves shall go. But, from the report of the case, and from the evidence of Messrs. Wigan, McLean, Rourke, and Donne, we cannot make out that anything is acted there. An exhibition of dancing-girls and of dancing undoubtedly takes place, and it is not alleged that there is any impropriety in it. If there were, the licensing magistrates would be the proper persons to apply to; and, if a case could be made out against Mr. Strange, he would be compelled to close his establishment.

As it is, the London managers and their witnesses maintain that a series of dances performed at the Alhambra constitute a ballet, and up to this point we agree with them; then they argue, in the most absurd manner possible, that "a ballet may exist without dancing, but cannot without pantomime." The fact is that, although there are no "ballets of action" in which action of some kind does not take place, there are numbers of ballet-divertissements which are simply a succession of dances, and which are entirely without pantomime. The essential part of a ballet is the dancing, as the essential function of the ballerina is to dance; and a man must be strangely ignorant of the derivation and natural meaning of the word *ballet*, and must have failed to observe the *ballets* that are constantly being performed, to imagine for one moment that a *ballet* without dancing ever did or could exist. A manager might, no doubt, represent "Esmeralda" or "Giselle," and still leave out all the dances; just as he might leave all the airs out of "Le Prophete," or "Les Huguenots," while retaining the marches, the ballet-music, the music of the entr'actes, and all the orchestral music that is not written simply by way of accompaniment. A nice mess, however, he would make of "Le Prophete," or "Les Huguenots;" and a nice mess Mr. Alfred Wigan would make of "Esmeralda," or "Giselle," or any other ballet, if he undertook to perform it without dances.

The worst of the argument as to the absolute inseparability of pantomime from ballets (from the London managerial point of reasoning) is, that there really seems to be no pantomime at all in the ballet performed at the Alhambra. Mr. Wigan states that the "ladies of the ballet" (as by an abuse of language—at least as regards many of them—the more or less pretty girls of our dancing choruses are styled in the language of the stage) make signs, at the Alhambra, of attacking and retreating from some unseen enemy; and upon this one fact is grounded the allegation that the dances performed at the Alhambra constitute a pantomime, and, therefore, are essentially dramatic performances. If we were engaged as counsel on the part of the Alhambra, we should urge that the mere performance of a gesture in a dance does not constitute a dramatic performance. If pressed and beaten on this point we would then enjoin the ladies of our ballet to give up the signs of attacking and retreating from an unseen enemy; and the dances represented at the Alhambra would then, we fancy—in a legal point of view, at least—be unimpeachable.

For our part we know nothing personally either of the Alhambra or of any of the numerous music-halls that now exist in all parts of the metropolis. But we like fair dealing, and if the Alhambra is to be closed let it be shut up on some other grounds than that the dances performed there constitute a theatrical representation, and that a waltz or a mazurka are the same thing as a "stage-play."

MR. GLADSTONE ON THE COAL RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY.

ON Friday evening week Mr. Henry Beckett, F.G.S., of Wolverhampton, delivered a lecture in the Assembly-room, Mold, on "Geology in its application to the coal-fields of North Wales." The Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer was present, and moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer. He congratulated the audience on the justice which Mr. Beckett had done to the coal-field of Flintshire, stating that he (Mr. Gladstone) was not satisfied with the treatment which that coal-field had received in a variety of publications. It had been assumed that, because that was an old coal-mining district—a district where for a long period of time their forefathers had been scratching and grubbing, as it were, the surface of the earth—the coals were exhausted, and there was no more occasion to think about them, except just by way of gathering up some scraps and leavings which those who came before them had not been able to extract from the bowels of mother earth; but he himself had cherished a hope—which had strengthened from year to year, and which was now coming to a state of great confidence and vigour—that it might likewise be considered as a very young coal-mining district; that it was a district to the real character of which people were only just beginning really to awaken. He thought the signs had already appeared that this was a true conclusion, and he confidently looked for the multiplication of those signs from year to year. The general rule in that district had been in former times to stop at the main coal. It was assumed, for some reason or other, that that was the ne plus ultra, the very furthest point downwards of the coal measures, and the working in any seams under the main coal had been very insignificant. But when they came to compare what had taken place in adjoining districts—going, for example, down the bend of the Dee to the extreme of the estuary—they found great clusters of coal measures cropping up at different points, and it had never been proved yet that the whole of those coal measures were not lying undisturbed and tranquil under the main coal, waiting to be dug up. It was a district in which they might hope that before long deep shafts would be brought into operation. They had now every reason to believe that the coal-field of that district passed under the estuary of the Dee, and connected itself with the Lancashire coal-field; and he was sanguine enough to believe that the day was not far distant when the estuary of the Dee, which now meant a vast surface lying almost entirely useless, would be recovered from the usurpation of the sea and brought under cultivation, while the mineral enterprise of this great country was at work underneath. Referring to some observations by the lecturer on the dismal prognostications supposed to have been made by Sir William Armstrong in regard to the probable exhaustion of the coal supply of this country, Mr. Gladstone said he had been told that in those speculations Sir William Armstrong referred simply to the district within which he spoke. He hoped that 200 years were not to see the exhaustion of the mineral wealth of England; for—having immense confidence in the resources of this country, as well as in the character of the people, which, under God, was the best of all its resources—he did think that there was nothing certainly which he for one should contemplate with such apprehension as the exhaustion of its mineral wealth, and especially of its supplies of coal. He backed Sir William Armstrong's recommendation of economy in the use of coal; and he could not help mentioning that a very intelligent gentleman had informed him that they were cheapening the production of gas in Manchester at such a rate that it was highly probable that after the lapse of a few years all houses occupied by the labouring part of the population in particular would use no coal at all, but would have all the functions of light, warmth, and cooking performed by gas. This opened a most important source of economy to the working classes, while it also indicated a hope that we might be permitted to economise our stores of coal, and at the same time see removed that which was like a great blot on the face of creation—namely, the mass of smoke which disfigured large districts of this country.

AMONG THE NAILERS.

"HALESOWEN," says Mr. J. E. White, reporting to the Royal Commission on the Employments of Children and Young Persons the evidence collected by him, as assistant-commissioner, on the metal manufactures of the Birmingham district—"Halesowen is the only town on the direct road from Birmingham to Stourbridge. The principal employment of the place is the wrought-nail manufacture, carried on in small forges adjoining the homes of the greater part of the cottagers, and to a great extent by women and children. While I was in a cottage where I found a boy with a bare foot bandaged up, lamed by a burn, a sound of many voices singing swelled gradually near, and the boy, limping on his stick to the door, cried, 'Oh, mother! there 's the nailers coming;' and there passed by a crowd of several hundred men, women, and children, singing a hymn, of which two lines, contrasting strangely with their look and errand, were,

'And not a wave of trouble's roll
Across my peaceful breast.'

They were coming from the villages near Dudley to hold a meeting in Halesowen, to see if they could 'get out' the nailers who were 'working against' them there, their strike having already lasted eleven weeks. 'It 's heart-breaking work,' said the woman. Among the many children in the crowd were two little boys, apparently six years old or not much more, dragged along by the hand of a woman, probably their mother, footsore and lame from their march. To see such infants made to take part in a strike, and march miles to swell a meeting to spread it, was a sight which gave but a poor idea of the consideration they were likely to meet with in their work at home. . . . A nailer at Halesowen said to me, 'The parents carry them on into the night as long as their strength lasts when the work is wanted quick; it 's no use beyond, but, as far as they can, they are partly obligated to work. I should not like my little boy there, now five, to begin before nine; and he shan't if I can help it, but if I am any ways obligated he must. He is but a little mossil, and if I were to get that little creature to work I should have to get a scaffold for him to stand on to reach, and with that it would be like murder-work, as you may say. It don't agree with children at first, the work being always hot. In summer the little ones, being afore the fire all the time, sweat so till it runs down their faces like anything. Then they fret more with the learning and sweat more—fret wonderfully, the little ones do. I did so myself when a little one, and even when a big one (grown person) frets, he's bound to be warm and sweat. Then the young ones often burn themselves, perhaps a time or two in a week. Four years ago, my boy, then ten, got two pieces of the iron in at the top of his trousers, and before they could be got out they dropped and caught his leg, burning two wounds as big as a crown piece, and the scars are there now and always will be. He played nine weeks for that, and cost me a sovereign for doctoring, besides losing his work. The young ones should not work so long as they do. My son there, now fourteen, has to work hard from six a.m. to eight p.m. to make 8½d. to 9d. It 's many hours to be stiving up in a hot shop.' The son looked delicate. He can read; his sister, aged seventeen, who works as a nailer, can read but little. I got these answers from a lad of thirteen, a nailer, in the same town:—'Heard about Jesus Christ at the Church school, but he 's long since that I've forgot about Him. Do not know whether He 'd do miracles or wonderful things, or how He was killed, and have not heard of Noah and the flood. Jesus made the world in six days. The Queen has a name; it is Prince.' A resident magistrate stated to me—'As a class, the nailers are more ignorant than the miners. They are not wanting in intelligence, but are rough and untutored. Large numbers of adults cannot read, and few can write. The children begin nailing very young. I have seen some at work apparently of not above seven, others eight, and many at ten. The parents work late at the end of the week, but I do not think, as a rule, the children work so late, because they could not stand it, and their work is of little value.'

THE RAILWAYS AND THE METROPOLIS.—The railway schemes which will next session be submitted to Parliament in reference to London are forty-seven in number, and represent no fewer than 151 separate lines and branches, with a total length of 349 miles; of these twenty-three relate to the south side of London. The longest on the list is the London, Bucks, and East Gloucestershire, fifty-nine miles six furlongs, which branches off from the Midland near Brent Reservoir, and comprises seven different sections. Next in point of dimensions is the Surrey and Sussex Junction, forty-two miles five furlongs, which begins a little to the south of Croydon on the South-Eastern and Brighton, and includes six sections; and after this come the new lines of the South-Eastern (thirty-three miles long) to Woolwich, Cranbrook, &c. The schemes, however, which most attract the eye by the number of red lines, in close contiguity, are those which centre at Blackwall on the one side of the river and New-cross on the other. A couple of rival projects contend for the honour and profit of connecting these two points, by utilising the Thames Tunnel. The East London (which is in alliance with the Eastern Metropolitan Underground from Stepney to Houndsditch) begins at a point on the Great Eastern near Cambridge-road, Bethnal-green, and passes through Wapping (traversing the London New Dock on its way) to the Thames Tunnel, by means of which it reaches Rotherhithe, and thence to New-cross. It forms junctions with the South-Eastern, London and Greenwich, London and Brighton, Blackwall, and North London Railways. The Metropolitan and South London (Thames Tunnel) Railway follows substantially the same route, with here and there, however, certain deviations. In length the East London is eight miles four furlongs, and the other nine miles five furlongs.

CAPTAIN COLES.—The Admiralty have placed at the disposal of Captain Cowper Coles the lines of her Majesty's ship *Fallas*, whereby to guide him in the construction of his new cupola-ship, and an experienced draughtsman has been dispatched from Whitehall to assist him in preparing the necessary designs which will be required at his hands. The *Fallas*, although only called a corvette, is to be 237½ tons, and is to have a steam power equal to 600-horse power nominal. She is to mount four 300-pounders and two 100-pounders. It will be thus seen that she will be a most formidable craft. We cannot vouch for the fact, but we have been told that the Admiralty were desirous that Captain Coles should have selected for his model the *Bellerophon*, of fourteen guns, 424½ tons, and 1000-horse power, but that he preferred taking the *Fallas*.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

LAW AND CRIME.

A PENNY judicial dictum was delivered last Saturday by Mr. Gibbons, at the City Sheriff's Court. In "Richards v. Ricketts" the plaintiff sued the defendant for £6, for lodging supplied and for the removal of goods. The defendant had been afraid of the sheriff's officers, and had employed plaintiff to remove his goods three or four times, and had also lodged privately in plaintiff's house to avoid arrest. Mr. Gibbons asked of defendant—"Was the removal of your goods for the purpose of evading the process of the law?" The defendant answered—"It was." His Honour then said—"Is not that illegal? I am of opinion that it is clearly illegal. One man has no right to assist another to evade the process of the law, and both parties appear to be equally in fault. As to the removal of the goods, that is not to be discussed. It is clearly tainted with illegality; and it is rather cool of a person who has been engaged in such a business coming to the law for assistance in recovering his charges." The plaintiff was nonsuited. But, with all due respect for the judicial position of Mr. Gibbons, we attach none to his decision. It is not illegal for a defendant to remove goods out of the reach of peril of a sheriff's officer armed with a *fiery facias*, any more than for him to keep out of the way to avoid arrest upon a *capias*. Nothing can be illegal unless it be contrary to law, and a law itself is futile unless it carry a punishment for its infraction. Now, in these cases the penalty is all the other way; for the defendant will be arrested if he do not keep out of the way of the bailiffs, and his goods will be seized unless he removes them. There is no law or shadow of a law against his doing either or both. If these acts be not illegal in the defendant, how can they be illegal in anyone aiding him therein? Of course, every lawyer knows what is an "immoral consideration;" and upon the principle of law connected therewith Mr. Gibbons appears to have foundered. An immoral consideration will invalidate a contract; but it is the compact founded thereon, and not the consideration, which is contrary to law, and therefore illegal.

An application in the cause "Camille and Marnet v. Donato" was heard before the Lord Chancellor, in his library, at Hackwood Park, near Basingstoke. This cause is not unusual in matters pressing in vacation. The plaintiffs are theatrical agents, and the defendant is a dancer whose right leg has been amputated, but who contrives to perform marvellous saltatory feats with the aid of the remaining limb. The plaintiffs entered into an engagement with Donato, by which they apparently contemplated making a profit by farming him. They were to pay him £40 per month. But Donato found he could make better terms for himself, and accepted an engagement at the English Opera House, Covent-garden, where he now appears nightly. Thereupon, the plaintiffs filed their bill in Chancery against him, and applied for an injunction to restrain his performing. Vice-Chancellor Kindersley dissolved an interim injunction, which had been granted by Vice-Chancellor Wood, and said that the Opera Company (the present managers of Covent-garden Theatre) ought to be made parties to the suit. Thereupon the plaintiffs applied to the Lord Chancellor, as already stated. His Lordship could not see his way to depriving the Opera Company of the benefit of their contract, and confirmed the opinion of the Vice-Chancellor, that they ought to be made defendants to the suit.

The proprietor of a travelling theatre was charged with having "unlawfully caused to be presented a certain part in a stage play" without license. The magistrate (at Wandsworth Police Court) said he had no discretion to mitigate the penalty, and fined the defendant £10 and 2s. costs. The defendant complained of the hardship of the law in not allowing free trade in dramatic exhibitions. It is a curious remnant of old law that this should not exist. Anciently, all stage-players were regarded as rogues and vagabonds, even in Shakespeare's time. Afterwards, Shakespeare's plays and the higher order of dramatic performances formed the subject of a monopoly by the two theatres of Covent-garden and Drury-lane, which were called "patent theatres." It is only within the last few years that the minor playhouses have been allowed to exhibit the plays of Shakespeare. A curious bit of slang etymology attaches to unlicensed penny theatres. These are vulgarly called "gaffs." To "blow" is, in slang parlance, to expose—to inform upon. Hence a cant phrase, originally applied to bringing one of these places under cognisance of the authorities. It has now a more extended signification, and to betray anyone's secret, or to defeat his plans by exposure, is described as "blowing his gaff." In this case it was the "gaff" of a Mr. Fredericks which was "blown" to his misfortune. He had been playing the "Ticket-of-Leave Man" without a proper ticket of leave.

Mr. Superintendent Durkin has simply bullied the poor boardmen—animated sandwiches, as Mr. Dickens has called them—out of their livelihood. It is only the ignorance or timidity of their employers which has encouraged this usurpation of authority. There is no law whatever empowering any policeman to arrest or summon a boardman, unless the "sandwich" create an obstruction. No policeman has hitherto dared to take a boardman into custody, and a metropolitan magistrate has given a broad hint as to what might occur if a case of the kind were brought before him.

A LEGACY WITH A CONDITION.—A retired officer has just died at Vienna, after making a will by which he leaves the greater part of his property to a nephew on condition that he shall never read a newspaper. To secure the exact accomplishment of his wishes, the testator has left considerable legacies to three of his friends, whom he charges to keep strict watch over his nephew in turns. In case of infringing the prohibition the nephew will be immediately deprived of the enjoyment of his uncle's estate, and the executors will dispose of it as directed in the will. The nephew is employed in the Post Office.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

WE have very little change to notes in the value of Home Securities this week. The transactions, generally, have been on a very moderate scale, yet prices have continued firm. Consols for Money, have realised 85½; Ditto, for Account, 85½; Reduced and New Three per Cent. 85½; Exchequer Bills, par to 3s. prem.; Bank Stock has realised 228 to 240; Indian Stocks, &c. have moved off 15 ex div. The quotations, however, may be considered firm. India Stock has marked 212 to 214; Ditto, New, 102½ to 103; India Four per Cent. have been 98 to 99½; and the Bonds, 8s. to 10s. prem. The Rupee Paper has been 101 to 102, and 109 to 110.

In the Stock Exchange money is worth 54 per cent. Most of the gold at hand has been sent out for shipment to France; very little bullion has therefore been sent into the Bank of England. The Council for India have disposed of £300,000 in bills, at full price. Bar silver is selling at 61½d. per ounce.

The market for the Confederate Loan has been dull, and the quotation is now 54 to 55. Most other Foreign Securities, however, have ruled firm, although the dealings in them have been far from numerous. The Scrip of the New Egyptian Loan has marked 10½ to 11; Ditto, of the New Danubian Loan, 4½ to 5; Ditto, of the Egyptian Seven per Cent. have been 100½ to 101; Greek, 23½; Mexican Three per Cent. 26½ to 27; Ditto, 1864, 26½; Peruvian Four-and-a-Half per Cent. 79½; Portuguese Three per Cent. 46½ ex div.; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cent. 86½; Ditto Three per Cent. 54½; Ditto Five per Cent. 1862, 84½; Sardinian Five per Cent. 81½; Spanish Deferred, 41 ex div.; Ditto, Passiva, 23½; Ditto, Certificate, 14½; Turkish Six per Cent. 1855, 71; Ditto, 1862, 60½ ex div.; Venezuela Six per Cent. 1862, 56½; Ditto, 1864, 41½; and Italian Five per Cent. 64½.

In Joint-stock Bank Shares only a moderate business has been transacted; nevertheless, the quotations have had an upward tendency. Alliance have sold at 34; Ditto, New, 33½; Bank of Egypt, 31½; Bank of Queensland, 17½; Brazilian and Portuguese, 10½; Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, 35; Consolidated, 11½; Exchequer, 13½; Hongkong, 31; India, 31; Imperial, 31½; Imperial Ottoman, 17 ex div.; Land Mortgage of India, 31; London Chartered of Australia, 24½ ex div.; London and County, 83½; London Joint-Stock, 51½; London and Westminster, 99½; Oriental, 55; Sincle, Punjab, and Delhi, 114; South Australia, 37; South-Eastern, 112½; and Union of London, 53½. Colonial Government Securities have been dealt in to a moderate extent.—Canada Six per Cent. have realised 95½ ex div.; Ditto Five per Cent. 85½ ex div.; New South Wales Five per Cent. 98 ex div.; and Victoria Six per Cent. 107½.

The Miscellaneous market has ruled steady.—City Office, 54; Continental Union Gas, 10½; Credit Foncier and Mobilier of England, 85½; Ditto, New, 51½; Credit Foncier of Mauritius, 61; Crystal Palace, 32½; Ditto, references, 104½ ex div.; Egyptian Commercial and Trading, 31½; Financial Corporation, 1; Free-Street Warehouse, 91; General Credit, 71; Harrow Bay, 16½ ex div.; International Financial, 71; Joint-stock Discount, 51; London Financial Assoc. atom, 23½; Ditto, New, 23½; London General Omnibus, 31; Millwall Iron Works, 41; National Discount, 164; National Financial, 41; Ottoman Financial, 71; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 71; South Australian Land, 31.

The Railway share Market has continued steady; and, in some instances, prices have had an upward tendency.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Unusually small supplies of English wheat having been on sale this week, the demand for all kinds has ruled steady, at an advance in quotations of from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per quarter. Fine foreign wheats have produced 1s. per quarter more money, and the value of other kinds has been well up ruled. The business doing, however, has been by no means extensive. Malting and grinding barley has commanded full current prices. In distilling sorts very little has been passing, on former terms. No change has taken place in the value of malt. Good sound oats have moved off steadily, at full prices. Hotted samples have declined 6d. to 1s. per quarter. Beans have fallen 1s. per quarter, with a heavy inquiry. Peas have sold slowly, at late rates; but the demand for four has been tolerably healthy.

ENGLISH CURRENCY.—Wheat, 39s. to 45s.; barley, 23s. to 35s.; oats, 16s. to 24s.; rye, 25s. to 32s.; beans, 31s. to 38s.; peas, 22s. to 24s. per quarter; flour, 27s. to 40s. per 250 lb.

THE EMIGRATION FROM LIVERPOOL DURING 1864.—GREAT DECREASE.

THE returns of the Government Emigration officials at Liverpool, just completed, show a large decrease in the exodus from Liverpool, as compared with the year 1863. There sailed during 1864, in ships not under the Act, 3599 cabin and 1558 steerage passengers. To Canada, 199 steerage passengers; to New Brunswick, 11 cabin and 43 steerage passengers; to Nova Scotia, 76 steerage passengers; to Newfoundland, 12 cabin passengers; to Prince Edward Island, 8 cabin passengers; to British Columbia, 13 steerage passengers; to New South Wales, 31 cabin and 124 steerage passengers; to Victoria, 40 cabin and 379 steerage passengers; to South Australia, 2 steerage passengers; to the West Indies, 233 cabin passengers; to South America, 277 cabin and 318 steerage passengers; to the Falkland Islands, 2 cabin passengers; to Africa, 333 cabin passengers; to the East Indies, 34 cabin passengers; to Mexico, 40 cabin and 2 steerage passengers; and to the Sandwich Islands, 15 cabin passengers. The number of vessels which carried the above passengers was 220, of the registered tonnage of 218,521, and manned by crews numbering 9508. The total number of passengers in 1863 was 14,445, and this year only 7648, being a decrease of 6797. In reference to the departure of ships and their living freights "under the Act," the particulars are very important, inasmuch the nationality of the emigrants is classified and throws much light on the recent assumed operation of Federal recruiting agents in Ireland and elsewhere.

Of ships under the Act there sailed to the

	Ships.	Tons.	Crew.	Cabin.	Steerage.
United States	27	302,115	18,522	3,599	96,403
Canada	27	39,220	2,423	768	3,860
New South Wales	3	3,241	122	—	1,138
Queensland	6	—	289	35	1,892
Victoria	29	46,238	1,733	378	9,661
South America	1	287	15	2	61
	345	—	23,104	4,782	113,015

The following shows the nationality of the above passengers:—To the United States—English, 22,871; Irish, 60,560; Scotch, 2289; other countries, 9692. Canada—English, 2112; Irish, 852; Scotch, 71; other countries, 825. New South Wales—English, 213; Irish, 820; Scotch, 101; other countries, 4. Queensland—English, 588; Irish, 1053; Scotch, 966. Victoria—English, 3364; Irish, 4284; other countries, 307. South America—Irish, 61. The emigration, as compared with 1863, shows a decrease of 5740 in the ships not under the Act, and 6795 in ships under the Act; making a total decrease of 12,537. There has been a decrease of twenty-two ships under the Act, and thirty-five not under the Act.

"ROPING" IN TEXAS.—A soldier of a Texan regiment strolled beyond the lines in Tennessee. A Federal picket espied him, pointed his musket, and cried, "Surrender!" "Well, I suppose I must, seeing I am without arms," replied the Texan. And he dropped passively into step with his captor, who, in his turn, "dropped" his musket and proceeded to march into camp with his prisoner. The Texan rang was "without arms," it is true, for a bit of rope in his hand was either unobserved or unregarded till it was thrown as a lasso round the Yankee, and his arms—as arms as to the flesh and firearms—were bound closely to his side. "I reckon you had better surrender to me now," said the Texan. There was no help for it. A Texan with his hunter's wit and a handful of rope might pinion Achilles himself, I believe. "Roping" a kitten or an unlucky hen with a few yards of thick cord had been the run of his childhood; to rope beef and wild horses had been the ambition of his boyhood.—*All the Year Round*.

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